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TROUBLE FOR TRUDEAU IN QUEBEC
HÉBERT in metroVIEWS

HIGH-FLYING FLAME

Pan Am torchbearer Erin Clancy and two "torch police" escorts took the Games flame to new heights on Wednesday, strapping it aboard the Leviathan roller-coaster at Canada's Wonderland. See metroNEWS. SCREENGRAB

One-man Olympic bid

SPORT

Rogue Toronto councillor asks Boston to let us join their Games

Jessica Smith Cross
Metro | Toronto

A Toronto councillor is reaching out to Boston to get the city's name on the 2024 Olympics.

Coun. James Pasternak wants Toronto to become Boston's "junior partner" in the Games. The councillor wrote to the mayor's office in Beantown last week, inviting him and the Boston 2024 bid team to Toronto.

He hopes they'll "catch some of the events of the Pam Am Games and then chit-chat a little bit about their bid and whether Toronto has a role to play."

Pasternak's idea is that some Olympic events could take place at Toronto venues built for Pan Am.

So far, no one has responded, and Pasternak hasn't officially talked about the plan with Mayor John Tory or the Canadian Olympic Committee. But he has done at least one interview with Boston media about the idea.

The Boston 2024 bid committee's planned venues are all in the Boston area, a spokesperson said in a statement to Metro.

Representatives from Boston 2024 are coming to the Pan Am Games, the statement said, but that was planned prior to Pasternak's invitation.

"If they want to be a Lone Ranger and go it alone, and feel they can, that's fine, I have to respect that," Pasternak said Wednesday. "But, I think we can deliver some IOC votes that they cannot get."

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Celebs to judge Tim Hortons doughnut contest. **Business**

‘Coming out of the cat closet’

HUMANE SOCIETY

Top 13 contest winners to feature in Cats & Bros calendar

Bubbles is a cat man — and he’s purrowd of it.

“People are always going on about dogs, but dogs don’t do it for me — I like kitties,” the unabashed cat fancier says from his feline-filled shed in Nova Scotia’s Sunnyvale Trailer Park.

“They dole out the love, you know? There’s nothing better than a kitty coming up and rubbing his face on you when you’re trying to sleep.... I just find cats to be a lot smarter, you know. Dogs — they’d follow you right off a cliff.”

The Trailer Park Boys star, along with his 18-year-old rescue cat, Vince the Pince, is the poster boy of the Canadian Federation of Humane Societies’ Cats & Bros photo contest.

“Lucy came up and said, ‘Hey! Do you wanna be the ambassador of the kitty cat program?’” Bubbles says of cat-loving co-star Lucy DeCoutere.

“Whatever I can do to help kitties, I’ll do it.”

The federation, which represents humane societies and SPCAs across Canada, is encouraging men across the country to snap photos of themselves with their best feline friend, then write a blurb about their purrmance.

People can then vote at catsandbros.com for their favourite pair. The top 13 entrants will be featured as pinup models in the federation’s 2016 Cats & Bros calendar.

“We want to break down the crazy cat lady stereotype,” CEO Barbara Cartwright says. “More and more men are literally coming out of the cat closet.”

Nearly 100 bros have entered thus far, including 23-year-old Igor Aldomar — one of 16 contestants from Toronto.

“She’s more like a dog — she’ll fetch!” Aldomar, who’s currently sitting in the middle of the pack with 27 votes, says of his cat, Marbles.

“Last year, I needed to get open heart surgery,” Aldomar adds. “She kept me calm.”

Each vote costs one dollar and the federation has already raised more than $9,600 of its $20,000 goal.

The funds will go toward the federation’s cat welfare program, increasing access to low-cost spay and neuter programs, as well as helping shelters raise cat adoption rates. Voting ends at 9 p.m. on June 30.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

According to the federation, Canada has a cat overpopulation crisis. With 10.2 million cats in the country, they are our most popular pets, yet are much less likely than dogs to receive veterinary care, have permanent identification or to be reunited with their owners if lost. They’re also twice as likely as dogs to end up abandoned in a shelter.

The problem, Cartwright says, lies in our belief that cats can fend for themselves.

“As a culture, we treat them as throwaways,” Cartwright says.

“We need to start looking for ways to increase the value of cats.”

In Canada, 600,000 cats are rendered homeless or placed in shelters each year, Cartwright says. Of those who find their way into shelters, only 44 per cent find permanent homes. For every dog that’s euthanized, five cats are put down.

“We’re crushed under the weight of unwanted and abandoned cats,” Cartwright says. “We want cats in homes and not being euthanized,” she says. “We need more men adopting cats.”

Back in Sunnyvale, more than a third of the park’s cats died during this year’s harsh winter, DeCoutere says.

“Spay your cats, neuter your cats and be awesome to them,” she told Torstar News Service.

“Bob Barker’s been saying it for years, and he can’t be lying,” Bubbles pipes in. “The price is right, Bubs.”

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

CONTESTANTS

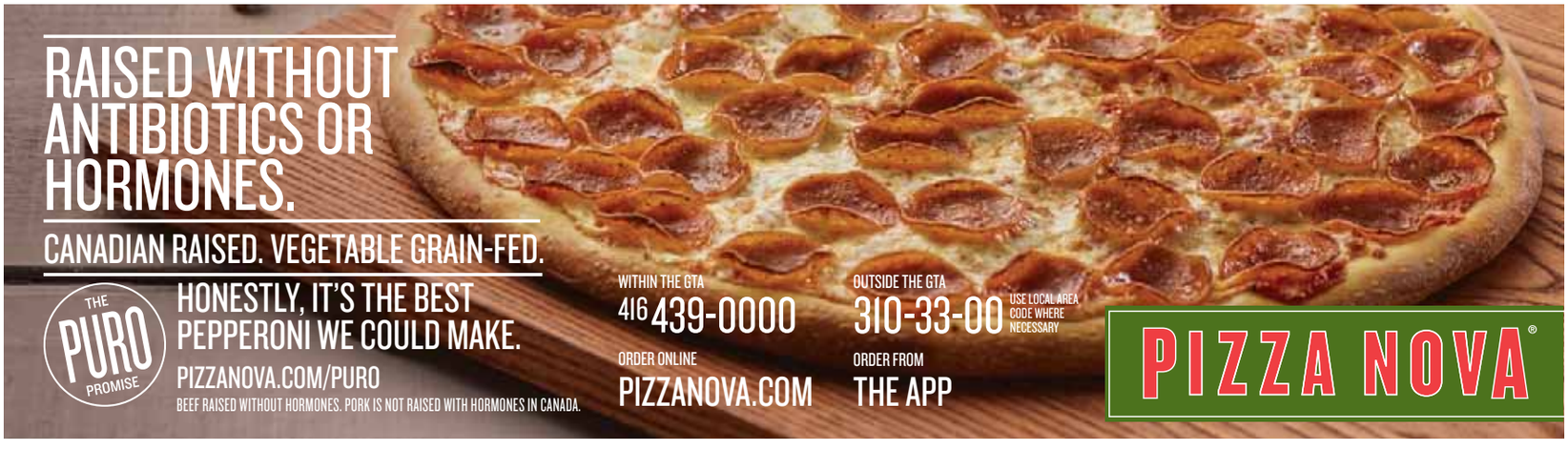
Bubbles & Vince the Pince
Bubbles picked up Vince the Pince from the SPCA 18 years ago. “Some arsehole put him in a Sobeys bag ... and fired him into a brook.”

Igor Aldomar & Marbles
Igor Aldomar’s sister adopted Marbles in Montreal, but gave the cat to her brother, who studies industrial design at OCAD in Toronto. Aldomar, who was born with a congenital heart disease, underwent open heart surgery last year.

Mike Gaudet & Ti-Mine
Twelve years ago, Gaudet’s ex randomly brought T-Mine home. “The ex didn’t stay long, but the cat stayed for good!” Gaudet laughs.

Hugh Chisholm & Tuxedo Stan
Tuxedo Stan ran for the Halifax mayoralty in 2012. Since his untimely death at the age of three, his brother Earl Gray has continued Stan’s work.

Philip Aulenbach & Butter
Two years after being adopted, Butter had an awful urinary blockage and almost died. A veterinarian informed his owners that his penis was too small and he required a $3,000 gender reassignment surgery to survive.



Police search for Vaughan shooter who left two dead

COFFEE-SHOP KILLINGS

Two others also shot and put in hospital

York Region police were on the hunt Wednesday for a gunman who shot two people dead and left two others injured, one of them clinging to life, at a Vaughan coffee shop that morning.

Vaughan residents Christopher Desimone, 24, and Maria Voci, 47, were found dead when police arrived at about 8:15 a.m. at Moka Espresso, near the busy intersection of Islington Avenue and Highway 7.

Two others were also shot and rushed to hospital, one suffering life-threatening injuries. Police did not identify the injured victims.

A black BMW convertible belonging to former Toronto mayoral candidate Rocco Di Paola remained unclaimed Wednesday afternoon in the coffee shop's parking lot. Calls to his business were not answered.

Police are hoping anyone who might have witnessed the shooter's getaway in a dark compact vehicle will provide information — particularly anyone who might have been driving through the area at the time with a dashcam.

Police say the shooter, described only as a "male with darker skin," fled south on Islington.

"If anyone has any kind of video or was in that area and noted anything — noted a vehicle speeding away or anything like that — we would absolutely want to hear from them," said Const. Laura Nicolle.

The Moka, previously known as the Doppio Espresso Bar, is in a strip mall between a Pizza Pizza and a convenience store. Wednesday afternoon, a bright red "open" sign blinked in the front window of the café as neighbours, concerned community members and workers from local businesses stood behind strips of yellow police tape.

The first of two victims from a shooting at a café in Vaughan arrive at a trauma centre in Toronto on Wednesday. Four people were shot at Moka café on Highway 7 near Islington Avenue in Vaughan. VICTOR BIRO/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Carmen Palma, who works at the Active Green and Ross Tire and Automotive Centre near the site of the shooting, usually stops at Moka at about 7:45 a.m. to pick up a tea before her shift — a time, she said, that is usually fairly quiet for the espresso bar.

But Palma didn't go Wednesday.

"I was running late this morning," she said, so she went straight to work, minutes before the 911 call was made. "I was very lucky."

Palma said the business' compressors were so loud workers didn't hear anything.

"It's kind of scary," she said. "If we would have got here a little bit earlier, we would have gotten caught right in the middle of it."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

CRASH

Company says bus hit truck

A trucking company says one of its tractor-trailers was hit hard from behind by a double-decker bus in a collision in eastern Ontario that injured nearly two dozen people.

Ontario Provincial Police Sgt. Kristine Rae says the collision between a Megabus and a tractor-trailer Tuesday afternoon on Highway 401 remains under investigation, and police "haven't made any determination on what caused the crash yet."

Jeff Boyle, a spokesman with the Caravan Group of Companies that owns the truck involved, says the driver is shaken up but otherwise healthy.

Boyle says the truck was hit from behind by the bus, clipping the back corner and moving along on the right side of the truck before taking out the passenger-side mirror.

The bus, which was carrying about 45 passengers between Montreal and Toronto, then continued into the ditch near Lancaster, Ont., before coming to a stop. THE CANADIAN PRESS

SPONSORED CONTENT

Get camera ready

Nothing signals the start of summer like Canada Day fireworks. Sure, some of your neighbours might jump the gun and launch a few rockets on the Victoria Day weekend, but it's the July 1 sparkling canopy of colour and fire that truly herald summer's arrival. Preserve the memory forever with these tips for photographing fireworks:

CONTRIBUTED

GO STEADY

To truly capture the look and feel of a fireworks show you need a tripod. It's impossible to hold your camera still enough for long enough to let enough light in, so pack a tripod along with your picnic blanket and lawn chairs.

GO LONG

Most pictures are captured in the blink of an eye, but fireworks demand longer exposures. If your camera has a long exposure of bulb setting, set it to leave the shutter open for anywhere from two to 15 seconds — the longer it's open, the more individual bursts you will capture and the more dramatic the photo will be. Pair this with a low ISO setting (100 or 200) and a fairly small f-stop (around f/8) and you will be amazed at how well the images turn out. Fire a few test photos before the show starts to make sure that any foreground or skyline elements aren't too light or too dark with those settings, and tweak them a bit until you are happy.

GET COVERED

Photographers who are really serious about photographing fireworks will often cover their lens between individual bursts. Use a matte-black piece of cardboard to gently (don't bump the camera) block any light from entering the camera between explosions, and you will be able to capture all the action over a few minutes.

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Some are dreaming of a white Christmas ... in June

RETAIL

Making lists, checking them twice in prep for holidays

Gilbert Ngabo
Metro | Toronto

You can't tell Ted Genova that Christmas is exactly six months away today.

For the co-owner of Flatiron's Christmas market on Lower Jarvis, every day feels like the big festive season.

"Business is good all year long," said Genova, explaining that his store receives customers looking for Christmas-related items on a regular basis.

For 29 straight years, the store has served everything from candy canes and lights to decorations, nutcrackers and high-end souvenirs.

"You can't believe it but people have Christmas parties in July," he said. But traffic increases as fall kicks in and everyone starts getting ready for the holiday season, he noted.

While most people won't start thinking about Christmas time until after Halloween, the festive seasons are a constant reality for a number of business people in Toronto and the region.

Take the case of Bill Bagg. His family has been growing Christmas trees on two farms in east end of the GTA, servicing them all over Toronto during Christmas time. About 200,000 of them are currently in the farms.

It's a yearlong business that requires meticulous attention, and mainly survives on weather conditions, he said.

"We had a harsh winter this year and it hurt the trees," he said. Planting is generally done in spring, then follows an array of fertilizing, sprouting, grading and tagging, constantly trying to keep the weed and grass away, he said.

"It is a pretty big job every day of the year," he said.

Holiday Rejects, which operates three stores in Toronto selling "Ugly Christmas Sweaters," only keeps online services open through the summer. But it's always hectic to keep the inventory running and to go through the sweaters, said Adil Hooder, co-founder.

"People like to do some early shopping," he said.

"We probably do about 80 per cent of our sales before November time."

Ted Genova and Mario Friedrich happily deck the halls of their shop on a daily basis, as owners of year-round Christmas store Flatiron's Christmas Market at Jarvis and King streets.
LIZ BEDDALL/METRO

IN THE SPIRIT

It's Christmas in June at a downtown bar, and even Summer Santa is on hand to grace the opportunity.

CC Lounge is serving as many as 5,000 free meals at lunch Thursday to celebrate the big day that's six months away.

An evening gala is also planned, with all proceeds going to support the Ontario Volunteer Emergency Response Team (OVERT).

"Food banks are always full at Christmas time but come summer, they are deplete completely," said Adis Greco, the lounge owner. "So we wanted to bring a Christmas cheer while giving back to the community by helping a great cause."

It was hard to get turkey, but the chefs prepared good chickens, mashed potatoes, staffing, gravy and cranberry, he said.

GILBERT NGABO/METRO

> **"It is a pretty big job every day of the year."**
> Bill Bagg,
> Christmas tree farmer

CATHOLIC TEACHERS

Union sets stage for strike

Ontario's English Catholic school teachers have filed for conciliation in their provincial contract talks, which could set the stage for a strike.

Their union says it will nonetheless continue bargaining with the government and trustees this summer and hopes to reach an agreement before the new school year.

The Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association, which represents some 50,000 teachers, says there has been little progress on key issues that would affect students' learning conditions.

Its members voted 94 per cent for a strike mandate in April.

Several major teachers' unions have listed class sizes, control over teacher preparation time and hiring practices as sticking points in negotiations.

They have raised the possibility of September strikes, which could make for a tense summer of bargaining.

"OECTA members have been without a new contract for one year, and we are discouraged with the slow pace of negotiations," union president James Ryan said in a statement.

"We are optimistic that filing for conciliation will provide the impetus necessary for meaningful negotiations to continue, and that we can avoid disruption to classes in the fall."

More than 70,000 public high school students were out of school for weeks this spring due to strikes in the Toronto and Sudbury areas.

The Ontario Labour Relations Board eventually ruled that the teachers' strikes in the Durham and Peel regions and the Rainbow District were illegal.

In an attempt to avoid further strikes in those boards this school year, the Liberal government enacted back-to-work legislation.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Sending a 'message of solidarity'

O CANADA

Opera singer records first Arabic version of anthem

Gilbert Ngabo
Metro | Toronto

From far and wide, it's O Canada like you've never heard before.

Toronto opera singer Miriam Khalil has been recruited to make the first Arabic recording of our national anthem — an effort led by the Canadian Arab Institute just in time for the country's 148th birthday.

The result of the project — designed to get people who speak Arabic more engaged with their citizenship — is being released today.

"This is a celebration of our citizenship in this country," said Raja Khouri, president of the institute.

"When you hear something that is being said in your mother tongue, it has more emotional impact and makes you pay more attention," he said. "We hope it will be a step further in fostering responsibilities as citizens of this nation."

The group translated the anthem from English. They are releasing a purely Arabic version of the anthem, plus a trilingual version: English, French and Arabic.

Toronto classic opera singer Miriam Khalil has been recruited by the Canadian Arab Institute to record the Canadian national anthem in the Arabic language. COURTESY NIKOLA NOVAK

They envision using the new versions at various sorts of community events such as lectures, galas or picnics, where both bilingual and Arabic-only speaking people would be gathered, said Khouri.

"This is a gesture of creating enthusiasm and boosting interest in the community, a sort of message of solidarity and affinity with the larger Canadian family," he said.

Being involved was a "big honour" for Khalil, whose parents immigrated here from Lebanon when she was seven years old.

"This is our home, and this is our national anthem as well," said Khalil.

Canada is about diversity, and it is a good thing to have it reflected in an important symbol as the national anthem, she said.

"It felt like going back to my roots," she said. "I actually think it should be translated into every language."

O Canada! Our home and native land!

يا.....كندا..... أرضي وموطني

True patriot love in all thy sons command.

بالحُبّ و الإخلاص ، لَبّي ندائك

With glowing hearts we see thee rise,

بفخر و عِزّ نراك تنهضين ...

The True North strong and free!

بشمالٍ، حُرّ أبيّ،

From far and wide, O Canada,

We stand on guard for thee.

من كُلّ صوب..... يا كندا..... لَبّي ندائك

God keep our land, glorious and free!

حَمى الإلهي..... مَجْد بلادي

O Canada, we stand on guard for thee;

يا كندا، لَبّي ندائك

O Canada, we stand on guard for thee;

يا كندا، لَبّي ندائك

Translated by Fares Hadr

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حقوق النشر محفوظة

> **It felt like going back to my roots ... I actually think it should be translated into every language.**
> Opera singer Miriam Khalil

200,000

People in the GTA who identify as being Arab in origin.

SOURCE: STATSCAN 2011

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Gay men asking for vaccine coverage

HEALTH

Advocates say HPV also affects their community

Jessica Smith Cross
Metro | Toronto

Several young gay men will be marking Pride Week by getting HPV vaccinations at a Toronto clinic, in front of the media.

It is part of a campaign by a group of physicians, academics and researchers who are calling on Ontario's minister of health to offer free Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccines to young men, to prevent HPV-related cancer. They will be paying $200 for their vaccinations at the Hassel Free Clinic on Church Street Thursday.

The group has written a public letter to the minister laying out the case to vaccinate men and boys. In Ontario, there is already an HPV immunization program for girls, but the HPV vaccine causes cancer in men as well as women. Men who have sex with men, and people with HIV are particularly at risk, it says.

John Maxwell, Executive Director of the AIDS Committee of Toronto, is part of the campaign.

"Ontario has fallen behind other jurisdictions in Canada — such as Alberta, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island — that already fund HPV immunizations for men," he said in a statement.

"If I were a young man today, gay or straight, I would expect the government of Ontario to provide the same protection for me as it provides for girls and young women — protection from HPV-related cancers."

> **Ontario has fallen behind other jurisdictions in Canada.**
> John Maxwell

A spokesperson for Minister Eric Hoskins said the minister is reviewing the HPV immunization program, and considering factors "such as scientific evidence (e.g. burden of disease and vaccine effectiveness), economic and societal factors, as well as cost effectiveness and impact on the health system."

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Dance a part of past and present

A young dancer performs a traditional routine along with the Native Canadian Centre of Toronto Dancers as part of Aboriginal History Month celebrations Wednesday at Yonge-Dundas Square.
LIZ BEDDALL/METRO

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Torch taking the scenic route on its way to Games

CELEBRATIONS

Flame will be within an hour's drive for most of province

Chris Bateman
For Metro | Toronto

The 2015 Pan Am torch is a little more than halfway through its 41-day tour of Canada.

All told, the torch — which arrived May 30 in Toronto after being lighted in Mexico — will travel 20,000 kilometres from one side of the country to the other before the Pan Am opening ceremonies on July 10.

The trek is plotted along a winding, complex route designed to reach as many people as possible, said Steve Wallace, vice president of brand activation at Toronto 2015.

Torchbearer Andi Petrillo at Vaughan City Hall on Wednesday. The torch will be in the GTA till Saturday. THE CANADIAN PRESS

"The route was planned to make sure at least 85 percent of Ontarians would be within an hour's drive of the flame," he said.

"The excitement is building. The crowds are building every single night."

Many appearances were timed to coincide with major events across the country, such as the Calgary Stampede and Canada Day in Ottawa.

Hence the circuitous route that's seen the flame cover long stretches in a day's time — jumping from places like Halifax to Whitby overnight or Port Credit, Ont., to Richmond, B.C., in an afternoon.

The torch has been in southern Ontario for the better part of a week, minus a quick trip to Winnipeg on Monday.

It will stay here — hitting much of the GTA — through Saturday, then it's due in Montreal on Sunday.

By the time the opening ceremony rolls around, the various lanterns used to light the torch will have logged more than 15,000 kilometres worth of air travel, all strapped to a seat on a regular commercial flight with regular passengers.

"It's not an open flame, it's a miner's lantern," Wallace said. "That's the way it travels and that's the way it stays lit overnight while everyone's sleeping."

1,000

Roughly the number of torches used to carry the Pan Am flame to events across the country.

TICKET SALES

Mayor pushes positivity

Mayor John Tory used a pep talk to brush aside Pan Am pessimism from Torontonians who are testy over tepid ticket sales and temporary traffic woes.

"I don't know why we focus on the glass being half empty as opposed to half full," Tory said at Ontario Place Wednesday, referring to news that 650,000 tickets — or 50 per cent — have been sold with just over two weeks to go.

"Let's get positive about this," urged Tory, as Premier Kathleen Wynne and Pan Am Minister Michael Coteau stood nearby.

"We should get out of the old Toronto mentality.... We look at the negative. This is going to be a great event. The tickets are going to be sold," he insisted.

Pan Am officials said sales have been improving as the July 10 start of the Games approaches in just over two weeks.

"Over the last week, things have really picked up — we are selling a ticket every 20 seconds. We expect that trend to continue," said spokeswoman Neala Barton.

The Games has launched a new "top 5" section on its website pointing to the best bets for every day of the competition.

"We know some people want a little help navigating the many, many sports so we wanted to give them a little help," Barton said.

Tory said he's planning to catch a few events and predicted people will "get into the excitement of the whole thing."

"I haven't bought my tickets yet ... but I procrastinate as people do." TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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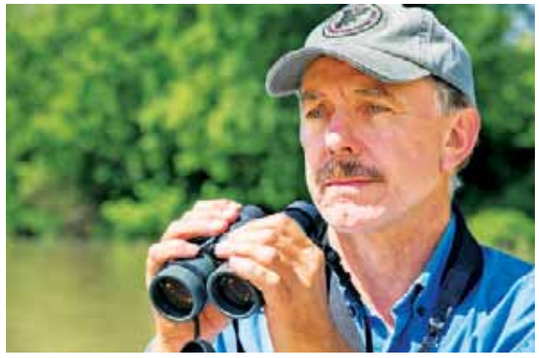
Tally team tackles threats to turtles

ECOLOGY

Cars, invasive species push local reptiles to the edge



Don Scallen, a Turtle Tally volunteer, scans the underbrush while canoeing the Humber River. COURTESY MICHAEL ROBINSON

Red-eared slider turtles in an enclosure at the Philippines' Manila Zoo in 2012. The species, introduced to Ontario, has aggressively moved into Toronto's bogs. NOEL CELIS/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Toronto's turtles may be losing the war they have been fighting for years.

Every June, the amphibious reptiles face injury or death from speeding motorists when they cross the road to nest. And when the females finally begin to lay their eggs, hungry raccoons emerge from the woods to snatch them.

But in recent years, it appears one of the most threatening foes may very well be one of their own: the red-eared slider turtle.

> **People buy these ... only to realize later they can grow up to seven pounds.**
> Marc Ouellette

Commonly found in pet stores, the red-eared slider is an introduced species to Ontario. They are the neighbourhood bullies who have moved into Toronto's bogs and marshes.

"They fight for resources and basking areas to the point where native turtles either die out or move on because the sliders have taken over," said Marc Ouellette, the founder of Little Res Q, a Toronto reptile-welfare organization.

Ouellette blames irresponsible pet ownership for the slow-moving invaders' presence.

"People buy these atypical little green guys for $20 at a pet store only to realize later they can grow up to seven pounds and need a 200-gallon tank to live in," he said.

Once they lose their appeal, owners are likely to release them into the local river or pond "and think they are giving their pet a good life," said Julia Phillips, co-ordinator of the Toronto Zoo's Adopt-A-Pond and local Turtle Tally conservation programs.

The provincewide Turtle Tally gets volunteers of all ages to record prime nesting locations and roadway spots that present a danger to crossing turtles. Understanding turtle nesting patterns can help researchers better maintain, and hopefully increase, their population.

More than a decade old, the program has attracted more volunteers every year.

Currently, seven out of eight native turtle species that reside in Toronto's watershed are still labeled "species at risk."

Yet, thanks to the efforts of local initiatives such as Turtle Tally and Little Res Q, Toronto's turtles may soon catch a break. The latest tally data suggests local populations are increasing, albeit slowly.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

REVITALIZATION

Ontario Place trail to be named after Bill Davis

A new waterfront trail along the East Island of Ontario Place will be named after former premier Bill Davis.

Premier Kathleen Wynne made the announcement Wednesday at Ontario Place alongside Davis and Mayor John Tory.

The William G. Davis trail will link up with the Martin Goodman Trail and other trails.

Wynne also announced that a parking lot on the East Island will be transformed into a park, a "7.5-acre naturalized green space celebrating Ontario landscapes." The park is scheduled to open in the fall of 2016.

Ontario Place, which opened in 1971, is undergoing a long-term revitalization. The park closed in 2012 as the number of visitors dwindled.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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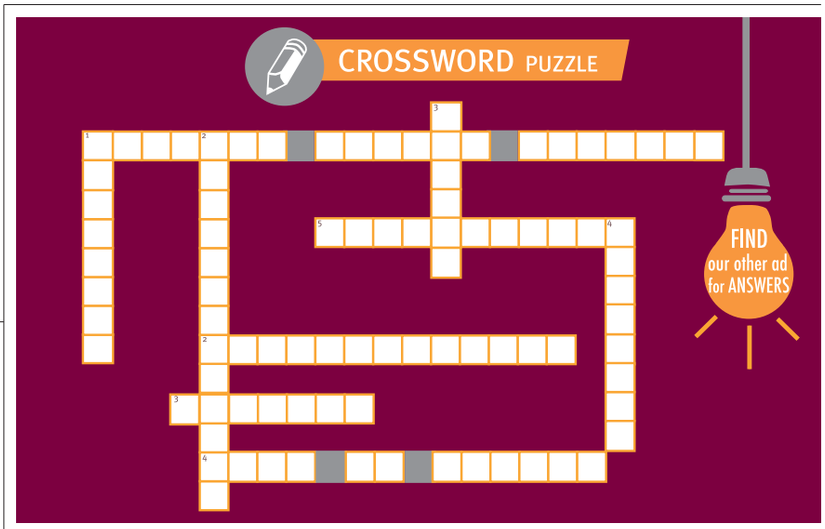

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3. Account at a financial institution that earns interest: ____ Account
4. An amount of credit which is extended to a borrower by a financial institution
5. Banking where the financial institution is owned by its members: ____Banking

DOWN

1. Account from which funds can be withdrawn through cheques or pre-authorized debit: ____ Account
2. A mortgage feature that allows a borrower to re-borrow the principal amount of the original mortgage that has been paid down: ____Mortgage
3. Owners of a credit union
4. An institution or a system for dealing in the currency of other countries. Foreign____

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CN Tower strikes no bolt from blue

LIGHTNING

Famous city structure is hit 75-80 times every year

A forked lightning strike hits near the CN Tower and Ashbridges Bay simultaneously. LUCAS OLENIUK/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Whoever said lightning never strikes twice hasn't beheld the 553-metre lightning rod that is the CN Tower.

Canada's tallest structure is also the city's biggest lightning target, especially in summer. Photos shared on Twitter showed the tower was licked again during Monday night's storm. Because of its height and slim structure, lightning hits the tower scores of times a year, according to Ali Hussein, an electrical engineering professor at Ryerson University who has studied lightning for nearly three decades.

"The closeness of a charged cloud, which usually carries a negative charge at its bottom, causes the creation of an extremely high electric field in the vicinity of a tall structure's top," he explained in an email.

Usually, the CN Tower is struck 75 to 80 times per year, said Geoffrey Coulson, an Environment Canada meteorologist. But some days, it's pummeled. On Aug. 24, 2011, for example, it was mercilessly zapped 52 times in only 84 minutes, Hussein said.

That's the equivalent of one strike every 97 seconds, he pointed out. "This is probably a world record."

That doesn't mean visitors or staff have anything to worry about. The tower channels the charge through long copper strips running from the top of its radio and cell antennae down to 52 buried grounding rods.

Irene Knight, the tower's manager of public relations, said "a lightning strike is not discernible to anyone inside the CN Tower. The sky may flash white for an instant. It is most visible outside and away from the tower."

Monico Santiago, who has worked at the tower for two years, says being inside during a thunderstorm can be a thrill. He was in the SkyPod, 447 meters above the ground, one stormy day when lightning struck and he heard "a large cracking sound."

> **This is probably a world record.**
>
> Electrical engineering professor Ali Hussein, on the CN Tower being hit 52 times in 84 minutes back in 2011

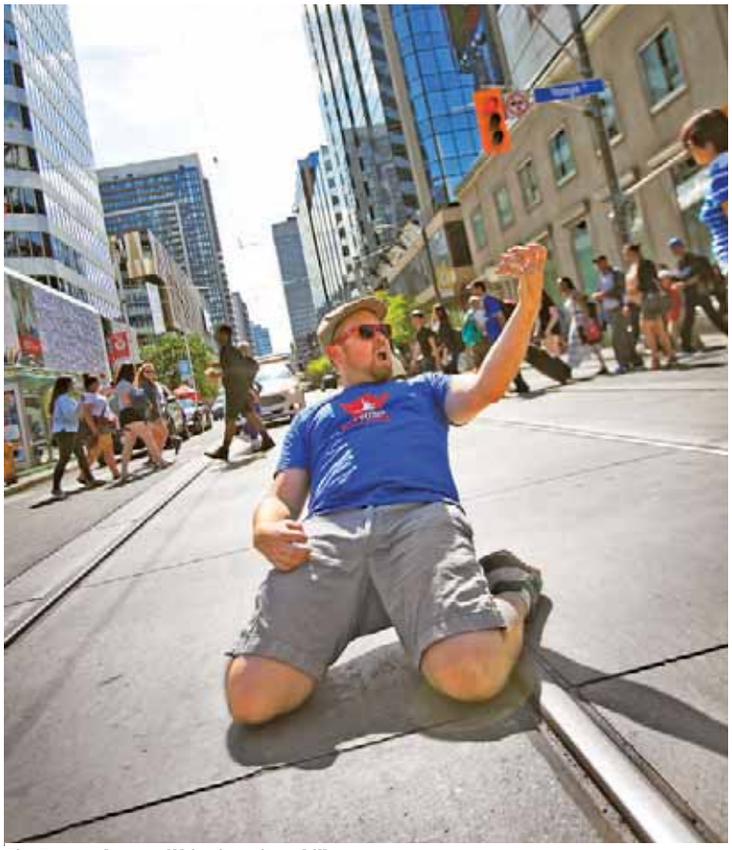
"It's just deafening.... There's a loud boom, then it's silent for a few seconds.... I was more excited than anything else just because, when you're up there, it's a different experience."

The CN Tower has withstood most lightning strikes without incident — with at least one notable exception.

On May 6, 1976 — a little more than a month before the tower opened to the public — lightning struck 12 metres from the top, causing $25,000 in damage and destroying 21-inch thick fiberglass moulds.

"It hit a spot where lightning normally doesn't hit," the CN Tower's director of design and construction, Malachy Grant, said at the time. "It was a freak lightning strike."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



Tim Evans shows off his air-guitar skills. LIZ BEDDALL/METRO

Seeking the next air-guitar hero

COMPETITION

15 Torontonians vying for spot in national championship

Gilbert Ngabo
Metro | Toronto

Ever imagine what it'd take to be a guitar champion in a competition that doesn't actually involve playing guitar?

Toronto's Tim Evans knows that first hand.

He was, back in 2007, crowned official Canadian air-guitar champion. That's right. A competition about playing guitar in the air — without the guitar.

"Probably one of the most fun experiences of my life," Evans said.

And now, he's involved in running the competition. This Saturday, about 15 of Toronto's finest air guitarists will let loose in a faceoff that serves as a qualifier for the ultimate national championship.

The first round of the competition will see every competitor perform one minute of music, with costumes and characters of their choice. A judging panel of assorted music experts grade their performances based on ability to be taken over by the music, charisma, technical skill, stage presence and — the biggest of all — airness, said Evans.

Then there's the brave-souls round. That's when members of the audience are given a chance, if they want, to enter the competition and perform a one-minute tune that's pre-recorded and improvised when they're on stage.

You don't need to be a guitarist to win, said Evans. Mainly those with guitar skills score well in the technical-skill category, but it's mainly the capacity to be great on stage and be an entertainer that matters most, he said.

"It's amazing how long a minute can feel sometimes when you're up there and doing these silly but wonderful acts," he said, adding it's better to choose a song that you're passionate about.

> **"It's like a one-minute sprint and can be exhausting. A little bit of physical stamina is helpful."**
> Tim Evans

"It's like a one-minute sprint and can be exhausting. A little bit of physical stamina is helpful."

The Air Guitar Canada competition aims to spread the message of peace around the world, and has chosen to support the Right to Play charity.

"Our driving message is that if you're holding a guitar, you can't be holding a gun," said Evans.

The national finals will take place on July 25 at the Mod Club in Toronto.

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Wynne behind the scenes

ONTARIO

But premier refuses to sign release for TVO broadcast

Torstar News Service is lifting the veil on a political drama no one is allowed to see.

A one-hour documentary entitled Premier: The Unscripted Kathleen Wynne was supposed to air on TVOntario earlier this month — before it was yanked.

The fly-on-the-wall account depicts Wynne under siege during February's Sudbury byelection scandal, lashing out at the press for being "out to get" her, and discussing the toll of being Canada's second most powerful leader.

She also dispenses campaign advice to a wide-eyed federal Liberal Leader Justin Trudeau and, with help from spouse Jane Rounthwaite, artfully smacks down a Progressive Conservative MPP for homophobic comments. Indeed, some of the film's most illuminating moments are of Wynne and Rounthwaite in their Toronto home.

In the film, Kathleen Wynne says she gets strength from a First Nations eagle feather.
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Their marriage is one of loving, equal partners who share a puckish sense of humour, a passion for politics, and a quaint affinity for the 1950s sit-com I Love Lucy.

But the behind-the-scenes portrait — filmed as the Liberals crafted the budget while coping with a police investigation into allegations a former candidate was bribed not to run in the Sudbury byelection — may never be broadcast. That's because the premier and her officials won't sign release forms, the director and editor quit and TVO is demanding a refund on its $114,075 investment.

> **"This guy is a Neanderthal.**
> Jane Rounthwaite, the premier's spouse

The documentary, seen by the Star, shows Wynne as a thoughtful and conscientious boss who treats staffers well and enjoys friendly relations with her cabinet colleagues as they prepare the budget.

Rounthwaite comes across as a smart and savvy political operator fiercely loyal to her spouse.

One episode is especially displays Rounthwaite's shrewdness as a strategist.

After Tory MPP Monte McNaughton — then courting social conservatives in his failed bid for the PC leadership — alluded to Wynne being a lesbian, the Liberals pounced.

"He said: 'It's not the premier of Ontario's job — especially Kathleen Wynne — to tell parents what's age-appropriate for their children,'" the premier told the legislature on Feb. 24.

"Is it that I'm a woman? Is it that I'm a mother? Is that I have a masters of education? Is that I was a school council chair? Is it that I was the minister of education?"

In the film, Wynne says "Jane said: 'Don't give him the word. Make him say it. This guy is a Neanderthal and we just won't help him.'"

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

IN LIMBO

What happened ...

It seemed like a good idea at the time.

Enthralled by Peter Raymont's 1978 National Film Board of Canada documentary, The Art of the Possible, Premier Kathleen Wynne jumped at the chance to star in an updated version.

"I was persuaded to do this video because I had watched the video of (former Ontario premier) Bill Davis, which was lovely, but everybody was a man and everybody was smoking," she said. "So I thought it was a good idea to have an update."

She agreed to Raymont's White Pine Pictures filming her at home and Queen's Park over four months.

A crew led by director Roxana Spicer was given full access for weeks, at cabinet, in high-level briefings, flying to Sudbury with Wynne during the byelection.

Officials screened a few minutes of footage May 1 to ensure it did not violate cabinet secrecy or anyone's privacy. They were alarmed. That led to Spicer and editor Michael Hannan quitting; the film remains in limbo.

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VALUES MEAL QUEBEC CAMPAIGN Prime Minister Stephen Harper pauses from handing out chicken dinners during Quebec's Fete National. The PM told a gathering of Tory candidates that Conservative values are Quebec values. JACQUES BOISSINOT/THE CANADIAN PRESS

New spying law not needed: CSIS

PRIVACY

Workarounds possible within existing legislation

The Conservative government alarmed privacy advocates by overhauling the law to give Canada's spy agency easier access to federal data — even though the spies themselves said greater information-sharing could be done under existing laws, newly released documents show.

In a presentation to federal deputy ministers last year, the Canadian Security Intelligence Service said "significant improvements" to the sharing of national-security information were possible within the "existing legislative framework."

The Canadian Press obtained a heavily censored copy of the secret February 2014 presentation and a related memo to CSIS director Michel Coulombe under the Access to Information Act.

Earlier this year, the government introduced a broad security bill that included the Security of Canada Information Sharing Act.

The legislation, which recently received royal assent, permits the sharing of information about activity that undermines the security of Canada, something law professors Craig Forcese and Kent Roach called "a new and astonishingly broad concept."

Privacy commissioner Daniel Therrien denounced the law's scope as "clearly excessive," saying it could make available all federally held information about someone of interest to as many as 17 government departments and agencies.

In the 2014 memo to Coulombe, CSIS assistant director Tom Venner stressed the importance of timely and reliable information exchanges, and he lamented the patchwork of existing authorities that hindered sharing. However, he added that laws and arrangements "often allow for the sharing of information for national security purposes." Venner cited a number of recently successful pilot projects and outlined "future opportunities" for sharing — all of them deleted from the memo.

> **(Existing laws) often allow for the sharing of information for national security purposes.**
> TomVenner, CSIS assistant director

CSIS clearly saw "room for workarounds" in the existing law "with a little bit more coordination within government," Forcese said in an interview.

The spy agency's memo seems "to belie the whole justification for the controversial information-sharing regime" in the government's anti-terrorism bill, Forcese said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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ZIMBABWE

Bush meat donated to quell prison riots

A quarter ton of meat from wild animals could be just the ticket to ending the unrest in Zimbabwe's Chikurubi maximum security prison where inmates have been rioting over their meatless diet.

Over the weekend, Zimbabwe's National Parks and Wildlife Authority donated 250 kilograms of bush meat for the 4,600 inmates whose diet has consisted of only porridge and cabbage despite regulations that they should receive meat at least three times a week.

Prison food woes amount to more evidence of a debilitating economic downturn that has left the Zimbabwean government struggling to meet its obligations, including paying civil servants on time. In March, riot police had to use water cannons against university students whose own food protests caused classes to be suspended for a time.

Close to a thousand prisoners rioted in February and then more seriously in March over the lack of meat for the last three years. Guards opened fire on the inmates who rioted after they refused to eat their cabbage lunch. Five people were killed.

Prison officials described the riot, in which prisoners set fire to blankets, newspapers and even the roof, as an escape attempt and later tried nine alleged leaders. During their trials, however, the prisoners maintained they were protesting the lack of meat.

"For the past three years, the prisoners did not eat any meat. The first meat that the prisoners ate was (when) the Zimbabwe National Parks and Wildlife Management Authority provided us with 250 kilograms of meat," prison official Gilbert Marange told members of the parliamentary committee on defence, home affairs and security, who toured the prison on Monday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ANIMALS FLAMINGO GETS A LEG UP A Chilean flamingo stands with the help of a specially-made prosthetic leg, at a zoo in Sorocaba, Brazil, Tuesday. The six-year-old bird fractured his left leg one month ago and it was partially amputated to halt an infection. NELSON ANTOINE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Queen may be moving

THE ROYALS

Palace needs nearly $300M in upgrades

Queen Elizabeth II may have to move out of Buckingham Palace during much-needed renovations to the residence, which has not been substantially redecorated since she took the throne in 1952, royal officials said Wednesday.

Officials say the palace needs an estimated 150 million pounds (C$291 million) of renovation and upgrades, including replacing old plumbing and wiring and removing asbestos. Having her move out during the work is one option being considered.

The queen has several other residences but spends about a third of her time in the London palace, which was first used by her ancestor Queen Victoria. It is the site of summer garden parties and scores of ceremonial events each year.

Keeper of the Privy Purse Alan Reid said maintenance on aging royal buildings, "and in particular Buckingham Palace, will present a significant financial challenge" in the next few years.

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Allies triple NATO's Response Force

EUROPE

Bolster ability to rapidly confront any Russian threat

Rejecting charges of engaging in a Cold War-style arms race with Russia, the U.S. and its NATO allies approved military upgrades Wednesday that should help them come to the aid of a threatened alliance member faster, with better equipment and more firepower.

"We stand united in the way we are addressing the challenges we face," said NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg.

Meeting at the alliance's headquarters in Brussels, U.S. Defence Secretary Ash Carter and counterparts from Canada and European member nations ordered the strength of NATO's Response Force — 13,000 at the start of 2015 — tripled to as many as 40,000 troops. They also added air, sea and special forces units to the force, which includes a mobile, multinational "spearhead" brigade of 5,000 ground troops the ministers ordered to be formed in February so NATO can reinforce any alliance member under threat within 48 hours.

Ministers also made it simpler and quicker for NATO generals and civilian officials to mobilize the force and bring it into action. The revamp was in large part caused by Russia's involvement in Ukraine and its escalating rhetoric about use of nuclear weapons, Stoltenberg told a news conference.

"We do not seek confrontation. And we do not want a new arms race," he said. "(But) we need to be prepared." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jens Stoltenberg, left, at NATO meeting. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.K.

Police probe verifies 'horrific' sex abuse

British crime experts say some 300 suspects have been identified in a wide-ranging inquiry into industrial-scale child sex abuse in the northern city of Rotherham.

The National Crime Agency said Wednesday that earlier reports saying roughly 1,400 children had been abused in the city between 1997 and 2013 appear accurate.

The magnitude of the abuse shocked Britain when it was first reported in August.

Municipal authorities in the city of 250,000 are accused of turning a blind eye to the reports of young girls who said they had been abused at the hands of largely Pakistani gangs. Officials say the girls, many who lived in government-paid care homes, were not believed or taken seriously when they complained about being raped and trafficked. Some were seen as troublemakers for reporting the abuse.

Steve Baldwin, the crime agency's senior investigating officer, said the police inquiry supports earlier claims about the number of children who were targeted. The agency also confirmed that two of the suspects have served on the city council.

"The abuse that has taken place in Rotherham is horrific," he said. "We have gathered a huge amount of information which details some very disturbing events."

Baldwin said investigators are now trying to win the community's trust so more victims will come forward. He said it's likely that investigators will eventually document "thousands" of offences. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Circus animals abandoned

Mexican authorities said Wednesday they found six tigers, seven baboons, four camels and three dromedaries abandoned in cages without food, water or proper care in Yucatan state. The passage of laws forbidding animal acts in circuses has raised fears that the species might be abandoned once they can no longer perform. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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‘I am sorry for the lives that I’ve taken’: Bomber

BOSTON

Tsarnaev, 21, breaks two years of silence with apology

In a startling turn, Boston Marathon bomber Dzhokhar Tsarnaev apologized for the lethal attack for the first time Wednesday just before a judge formally sentenced him to death.

“I am sorry for the lives that I’ve taken, for the suffering that I’ve caused you, for the damage that I’ve done — irreparable damage,” the 21-year-old college student said, breaking more than two years of public silence.

To the victims, he said: “I pray for your relief, for your healing.”

After Tsarnaev said his piece, U.S. District Judge George O’Toole Jr. quoted Shakespeare’s line about “The evil that men do lives after them” and told Tsarnaev that no one will remember that his teachers were fond of him, that his friends found him fun to be with or that he showed compassion to disabled people.

Boston bombing survivors Erika Brannock, left, and Rebekah Gregory leave court following the formal sentencing of Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, Wednesday. CHARLES KRUPA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

“What will be remembered is that you murdered and maimed innocent people, and that you did it wilfully and intentionally. You did it on purpose,” O’Toole said.

The apology came after Tsarnaev listened impassively for about three hours as a procession of victims and their loved ones lashed out at him for his “cowardly” and “disgusting” acts.

“He can’t possibly have had a soul to do such a horrible thing,” said Karen Rand McWatters, who lost a leg in the attack and whose best friend, 29-year-old Krystle Campbell, was killed.

The judge was required under law to impose the jury’s death sentence for the April 15, 2013, attack that killed three people and wounded more than 260.

The only real suspense was whether Tsarnaev would say anything when given a chance to speak. Until Wednesday, he had said almost nothing publicly since his arrest more than two years ago.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CONFEDERATE BANNER

Flag not ‘hateful,’ actor says

The Confederate flag is not a hateful symbol but instead a banner with positive historical context despite “the few thousand people that run around wearing sheets and committing atrocities,” said Ben Jones, the Dukes of Hazzard actor and former Democratic congressman.

Jones spoke to The Associated Press on Wednesday from Sperryville, Va., where he owns a store that celebrates the fictional Hazzard County from his TV show. He runs two other Cooter’s Place stores in Nashville and Gatlinburg, Tenn.

Jones said his stores will never stop selling Confederate items even as national retailers such as Wal-Mart drop them in the wake of the massacre of nine people at a black church in Charleston.

“We’re not changing anything in stores. There’s no reason to change anything,” Jones said. “We despise racism.”

He added: “It’s not a hateful symbol, and we despise that it’s being used by bigots and hate groups.” THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Duelling Donuts contest kicks off

TIM HORTONS

Deadmau5, Jann Arden participating as celeb judges

One lucky Canadian will be able to add their dream doughnut to the Tim Hortons menu and walk away with $10,000 as winner of the Duelling Donuts contest, launched Wednesday by the coffee chain.

Home chefs have until July 21 to concoct a unique doughnut idea inspired by a family recipe.

Eight quarter-finalists will present their creations to a celebrity panel, including musicians Deadmau5 and Jann Arden and actress Sophie Tweed-Simmons. She's the daughter of Shannon Tweed, a St. John's, N.L.-born actress and model who is married to Kiss bassist Gene Simmons.

After the panel chooses four semifinalists to advance, the public gets to pick two pastries they want to see sold at Tim Hortons.

Canadian singer-songwriter Jann Arden. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Joel Thomas Zimmerman, better known as Deadmau5. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The finalists will be announced Sept. 1 and sold in Tim Hortons restaurants across Canada early in the new year, with the most popular confection taking home the grand prize.

In 2014, Jennifer Brown of Glencoe, Ont., beat out almost 77,000 other entrants with her "Love Reese to Pieces" doughnut, which will be available at Tim Hortons shops for a limited time starting July 15. This chocolate doughnut, filled with a custard centre, is covered in chocolate fondant and topped with chopped peanuts and mini Reese's Peanut Butter Cups.

This is the third year for the contest, launched after Jason Priestley created a doughnut named after himself — "The Priestley," a strawberry-vanilla doughnut with a chocolate Timbit nestled inside — in an episode of How I Met Your Mother. THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Court approves Rogers purchase of Mobilicity

An Ontario court gave its approval for Rogers Communications to buy Mobilicity for about $465 million on Wednesday, a deal that is expected to trigger a series of transactions that will affect wireless customers in Ontario, Alberta and B.C.

Rogers said its takeover offer for Mobilicity has also been approved by Industry Canada, which had blocked previous attempts for Telus to buy Mobilicity. It still requires approval from the Competition Bureau. THE CANADIAN PRESS

market minute

DOLLAR 80.65¢ (-0.43¢)

TSX 14,947.51 (+42.60)

OIL $60.27 US (-0.74¢)

GOLD $1,172.90 US (-$3.70)

NATURAL GAS: $2.759US (+3.3¢)
DOW JONES: 17,966.07 (-178.00)

Ford announced Tuesday that customers who finance their vehicles through Ford Motor Credit may rent their vehicle to pre-screened drivers for short-term use to offset the monthly costs of owning a vehicle. SETH PERLMAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

UNITED STATES

Ford launches ride-sharing pilot

Ford is following the ride-sharing craze, launching its own pilot program in six U.S. cities and in London.

Under the program, customers who finance their vehicles through Ford Motor Credit will be able to rent their vehicle to pre-screened drivers for short-term use, helping to defray some monthly vehicle ownership costs.

"As most vehicles are parked and out of use much of the time, this can help us gauge our customers' desires to pick up extra cash and keep their vehicles in use," David McClelland, Ford Credit vice-president of marketing, said in a written statement.

Ford Motor Co. said 14,000 customers in the U.S. will be invited to participate, along with 12,000 in London.

U.S. customers will partake through ride-share company Getaround, while London customers will use easyCar Club.

The program is being offered through November to Ford Credit customers in Chicago, Washington D.C., Portland, Oregon and California locations including Berkeley, Oakland and San Francisco. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Insurance doesn't go on sale, but that doesn't mean you can't score a better deal. Every insurer calculates your rate differently, but they're based on similar factors. Your driving record, insurance history, where you live and the vehicle you drive are all taken into consideration, but so too is the insurance company's own claims experience. If your company has dealt with a lot of claims, this will be reflected in your rates. The only way to know this is by comparing your current auto insurance rates with what's available on the market. Shopping for a better insurance deal online has never been easier.

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metro VIEWS
Your essential daily news
Thursday, June 25, 2015

CHANTAL HÉBERT: ON THE BATTLE FOR QUEBEC

With Gilles Duceppe back in the game, the upcoming federal campaign is turning into a replay of the 2011 fight between the Bloc and the NDP.

By the looks of it, the long-awaited NDP-Liberal battle for Quebec next fall is on ice.

With Gilles Duceppe back in the game, the upcoming federal campaign is turning into a replay of the 2011 fight between the Bloc Québécois and the NDP.

A CROP survey published last weekend gave the NDP (38 per cent) an eight-point lead on the Bloc among francophone voters. A Leger Marketing poll done a few days earlier reported an even closer two-way battle across francophone Quebec.

Watching from the sidelines, Justin Trudeau's Liberals and Stephen Harper's Conservatives split the difference.

Notwithstanding their actual order in voting intentions, none of the four main parties is really where it would like to be in Quebec.

The Bloc has seen its share of support increase by double digits since Duceppe's return. It is climbing out of the basement, but remains at a good distance from the top floor — without a ready-made staircase to get there.

Provincewide, the party's current score is almost identical to its 2011 election night result. In short, Duceppe has brought home the voters that stuck with his sinking party four years ago and gave it four seats that did not include his.

Not all sovereigntists welcomed his return. Many are torn between their desire to see the Conservatives out of power and their loyalty to the cause. Some are angry at the notion that the veteran Bloc leader may facilitate the re-election of a Conservative government by further splitting the opposition vote.

Like most non-Conservative voters, those who switched from the Bloc to the NDP four years ago are more motivated than ever to seek regime change on Parliament Hill. With the NDP on the rise outside Quebec, the incentive to continue to support Thomas Mulcair's party is strong.

The Conservatives are essentially in the same position in voting intentions in Quebec as on election night four years ago. CROP pegged their support at 14 per cent. They won 16 per cent of the vote in 2011. An early-year improvement in Conservative fortunes has turned out to be short-lived.

A more divided opposition vote could help Harper hold on to his handful of Quebec seats and — possibly — win back some of those that were swept up by the orange wave four years ago. But that presumes a second NDP wave is out of the question. Is it really?

A more divided opposition vote could help Harper hold on to his handful of Quebec seats and — possibly — win back some of those that were swept up by the orange wave four years ago.

The Liberals are key to the answer. Trudeau's party has lost a lot of ground in his home province since it led the pack with 35 per cent or more of the vote at the end of last year. At this juncture, Liberal support — at about 24 per cent — hovers around Stéphane Dion's 2008 score. That was the party's best result of the past three elections.

Last year's polls showed that the Liberals have room to go up; the results of the last campaign suggest they could just as easily slip further. Four years ago, Michael Ignatieff led the party to a 14 per cent finish in Quebec. Its losses ended up as gains in the NDP column.

It is a well-established pattern of Quebec political life that in the face of a serious sovereigntist threat, the federalist vote tends to coalesce behind the strongest alternative on offer. The Liberals long benefited from that trend. But in 2011, the advantage shifted to the NDP, where it remains now that Mulcair is back in the lead.

To wit, more than half a dozen candidates are vying for the privilege of taking on Liberal MP Marc Garneau for the NDP in the federalist stronghold of Westmount-Ville-Marie.

The New Democrats look like they are in good shape in Quebec. They rank first with francophones. They have more potential for growth than the Conservatives and they are the second choice of more voters than the Liberals.

But a more combative Bloc brings with it the necessity for the NDP to talk up positions, such as the party's contention that it would accept a simple majority vote for Quebec independence. that are controversial in the rest of Canada.

Duceppe could end up doing more harm to the NDP outside Quebec than in his own province.

Chantal Hébert is a national affairs writer. Her column appears in Metro every Thursday.

THE MICROTREND: The incredible shrinking gym

All the staples of urban life seem to be scaling down: small cars, small condos and now small gyms — though not for a small price. One-room gyms are in, and the low cost of starting them is turning gym rats and workout instructors into entrepreneurs. Devotees sweat through hour-long sessions in tiny converted storefronts, swinging heavy kettlebells or practising yoga poses. Even steep prices — $30 for a typical class — can't slow the extra-large enthusiasm for a boutique exercise experience.

SOURCE: THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD

metroview

Clearly, obituaries should be the first thing you flip to.

Obituaries are where it's at.

"It" being dazzling stories that, by exploring the specifics of one person's bizarre or instrumental or unexpected life, say a lot about life in general.

They're not about people dying; they're about people living. And that makes them, ironically, the least depressing part of the news.

The best are playful, soaked in sweet details, and yet honest about someone's good and bad sides. You come out remembering that no one is perfect (or pure evil), which is helpful when you're still alive and trying to be perfect all the time.

They contain the greatest characters, and the oddest asides (a Globe and Mail obituary on parliamentarian Frank Howard notes how stealing a "butterscotch pie from the kitchen window of the Sullivan Hotel" got Howard sent to an orphanage).

Obituaries let us marvel at how single lives can shift the world around them — as with F. Scott Fitzgerald's personal secretary, who died recently. Frances Kroll Ring spent only 20 months with the literary giant, typing pages and cooking meals, before he died in 1940. But she ended up playing a key role in his legacy, advising filmmakers and biographers and even writing a memoir.

Clearly, obituaries should be the first thing you flip to, and some magazines help you out by placing them at the back. Those include the Economist and Maclean's — proving my theory that many things, but magazines in particular, are best read back to front.

The Economist's obituaries — which, in the U.K. tradition, lean heavily on wit and editorializing a life — detail extraordinary people around the globe. They taught me about the indomitable Polish statesmen Władysław Bartoszewski and the grotesquely opulent boyhood of Haitian ruler Baby Doc Duvalier. The stories satisfy, like watching a full sunset, their last lines tying off a life. I once cancelled my subscription because $11 a month seemed like a lot to pay just to read an obituary a week. Then I restarted it.

Being as I am in the middle of a life (or what feels like the middle — who knows when I'll die?), it's probably most satisfying to see how, in an obituary, one thing leads to another. Failures stack up to eventual success, periods of stagnation lead to change. No one, in hindsight, simply flounders, aimless and useless. There's meaning to be gleaned from any life.

Even, you've gotta hope, your own.

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Your essential daily news

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metro LIFE UNDO SEND!

Your essential daily news

All Gmail users now have 30 seconds to recall an ill-conceived email

Killing Monica, to live again

CANDACE BUSHNELL

Sex and the City scribe tackles a woman's identity crisis

Henrietta Walmark
Metro

Candace Bushnell's new novel follows a successful woman intent on changing her life. STYLING AND PHOTO BY LIZ BEDDALL/METRO

Tell me if you've heard this one before.

Pandy "PJ" Wallis is a famous writer whose books about the adventures of Monica, a swellegant New Yorker, are adapted for a series of blockbuster movies, starring SondraBeth Schnowzer as the beloved heroine.

Sound familiar? It's the starting point for Candace Bushnell's new book, Killing Monica (Grand Central Publishing, $30). Like a serpent swallowing its tail, Bushnell plunders the basic trajectory of the success of her bestseller Sex and the City for her latest narrative.

It's impossible not to see the parallels with the meteoric rise of the SATC franchise and its star Sarah Jessica Parker as Carrie Bradshaw, the barely disguised alter ego of Bushnell herself. But Bushnell has a couple of words for critics who see Killing Monica as a thinly veiled memoir: "cray cray." The idea is absurd, she says.

"It's all made up. I'm inclined to view (Killing Monica) as an artist. It's experimental, it's more surreal, and it's pushed much farther into farce. It's like an object that exists on its own. It exists outside of my life," says Bushnell.

"I wrote SATC and that was part journalism and part fiction, so that was like a reflection of my life, but I have not written one book since then where I put myself as the main character."

Bushnell, who gleefully skewers show biz in Killing Monica — the head of the film studio producing the Monica movies is nicknamed PP — says she was influenced by the 1963 epic comedy It's a Mad Mad Mad Mad World.

"It's the maddest madcap movie," she says. "I see some of those scenes like that; they're just over-the-top."

While film producers and fans can't get enough of Monica, and SondraBeth, Pandy is so over both of them. With her marriage in tatters and soon-to-be ex Jonny Beluga desperate to get his hands on a hefty chunk of her Monica-money, Pandy launches a scheme to free herself from all of it — the Monica millstone, her former bestie SondraBeth and the greedy grasp of Jonny.

Zany as the book may be, Killing Monica covers familiar Bushnell territory: the social and interior lives of women. In the case of her latest novel, it's that moment when women seek to reinvent themselves, a pattern Bushnell has noticed among her female friends.

"There truly is a midlife crisis; it's an existential crisis," says Bushnell.

"I see people struggling with reinvention, because like a Monica, we all have created a perfect persona. Monica's always happy, nothing bad ever happens to Monica. While Monica's kind of persona has served us very, very well, when our younger persona no longer fits, it's a time when it's natural to ask once again, 'Why am I here?'

"Which makes sense if you consider that it comes at a time when your children are also leaving the nest. I think it's nature's way of saying, now you must be creative in a different way," she says. "That's how I see it."

WHAT'S IN BUSHNELL'S BOOK BAG?

"I'm going to be travelling, so I've got Primates of Park Avenue. But I've already jumped on it and read the whole thing," says Bushnell, laughing.

"You know, I don't know what I'm going to read. I'm definitely going to read Jennifer Weiner's (Who Do You Love), but I'll have to wait until August."

WAYDE COMPTON

Dolezal an example of racial passing, says writer

The controversy surrounding the racial identity of American civil rights activist Rachel Dolezal is hardly surprising to Vancouver writer Wayde Compton.

After all, he wrote about the phenomenon known as racial passing in his 2010 book After Canaan: Essays on Race, Writing, and Region.

"There's a long history of racial passing with people who are light-skinned passing for white, that's kind of standard," said Compton, director of creative writing at Simon Fraser University's Continuing Studies program, during a recent telephone interview.

"But even people like Rachel Dolezal have been around since the 18th century."

Dolezal resigned last week as president of the NAACP chapter in Spokane, Wash., after her parents publicly proclaimed she is white and does not have any black ancestry as she had apparently claimed for years.

Examples of racial passing stretch back for centuries, there was James Douglas, the first governor of British Columbia who was part black "but looked white and rode that line of identification."

What prompted Compton to write about racial passing was when he realized that the term itself "has a problem built in it."

"It's used to describe any kind of racial mis-recognition and so, if I'm walking down the street or I'm at a bus stop and somebody looks at me and assumes that I'm white, then the language we have for it is that I passed for white," he said.

> **People like Rachel Dolezal have been around since the 18th century.**
> Wayde Compton

"But the problem is, I didn't necessarily do anything."

So Compton coined the term "pheneticizing," to describe how a person is "making the racializing decision about the person they're viewing."

"A lot of passing seems to begin from without," he said. "It's what other people see and then they make a decision at a certain point to either clarify them or to not clarify, and then eventually just kind of drift on into that identity position."

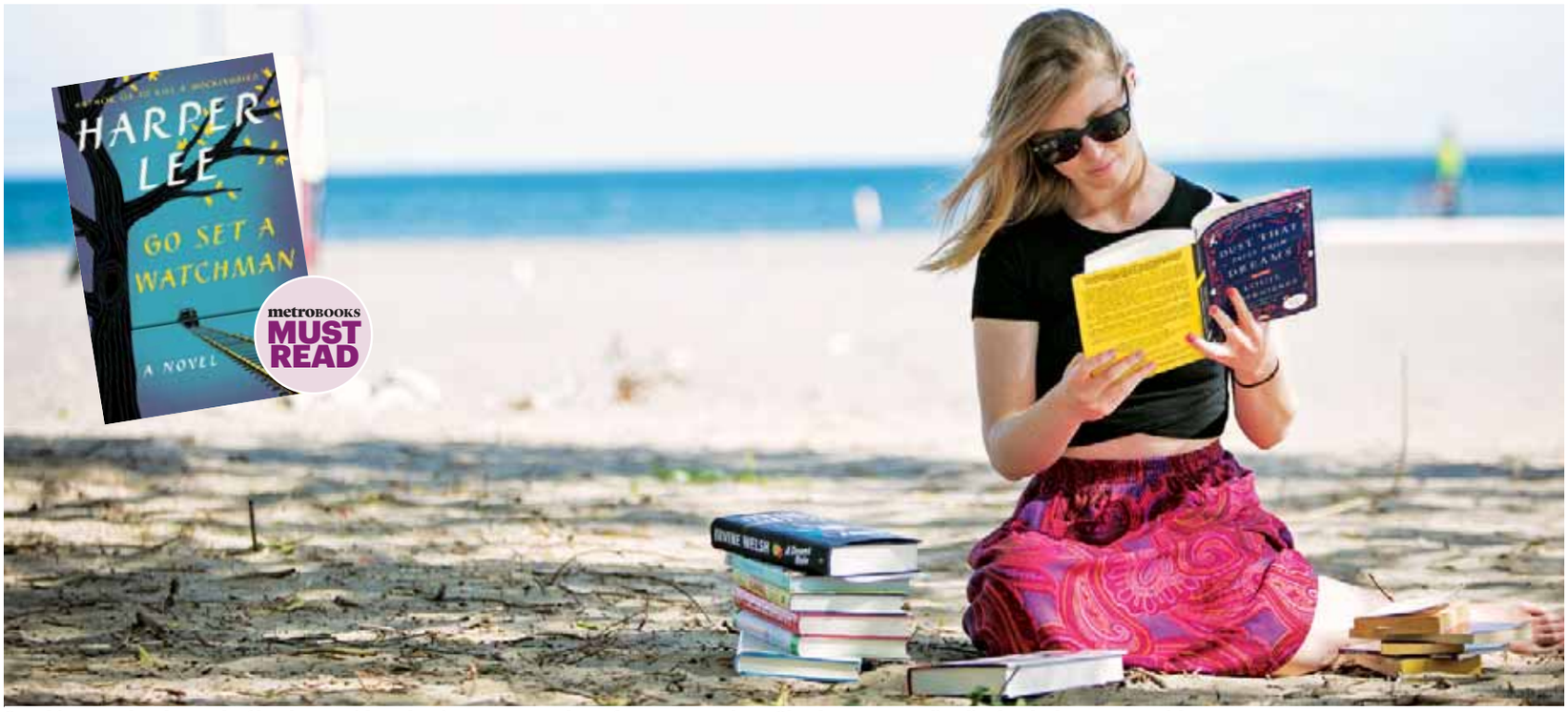
What's different about Dolezal's case is that it's not the typical example of racial passing.

"What we think of as traditional passing, it's usually about somebody who's from an oppressed group who is trying to escape that oppression, and that's pretty understandable," said Compton.

"Even still, people in those situations, most people who could pass don't."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Former NAACP leader Rachel Dolezal was born to parents who say they are white, but she chooses to self-identify as black. ANTHONY QUINTANO/NBC NEWS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/FILE



Sunshine, sand and a stack of books provide a classic way to spend carefree summer days. Check out our reading list for the hottest new titles. STYLING AND PHOTO BY LIZ BEDDALL/METRO

Best summer reading of 2015

Lazy days in the shade spent with a good book are one of summer's great luxuries, but to indulge, you have to decide what to read first. Whether you're looking for romance, suspense or to be transported across the globe, these are the books that will do the trick.

METRO CANADA

FICTION

Eight Hundred Grapes by Laura Dave
When Georgia's fiancé reveals a shocking secret just days before their wedding, she flees home to California where her family owns a winery. There, she learns that her parents are splitting up and selling the estate. Pour yourself a glass of wine and settle in.

The Underwriting by Michelle Miller
Alternating chapters between several characters, this is an addictive novel about sex, greed and the duelling world of Wall Street versus Silicon Valley. Six 20-somethings are primed to make millions thanks to a crazy popular dating app, but success comes at a price.

Under Fire by Tom Clancy
Though Tom Clancy passed away in 2013, his suspenseful franchise lives on, thanks to his co-author Grant Blackwood. This book follows the president's son, who sets out on a heart-pounding mission after an old friend delivers him a cryptic message.

Boo by Neil Smith
A book about friendship and finding your place in the world, Boo follows the adventure of eighth-grader Oliver "Boo" Dalrymple who finds himself suddenly in a strange land.

Love May Fail by Matthew Quick
From the author of the Oscar-winning Silver Linings Playbook comes this new novel about a woman who escapes her ritzy life in Florida to return home to her shut-in mother in New Jersey.

Summerlong by Dean Bakopoulos
Summerlong is both smart and satisfying. Don and Claire are college sweethearts living in a Midwestern town. Three children later, their marriage is in trouble and the young coeds they have both separately met sure aren't helping things.

Remember Me This Way by Sabine Durrant
An eerie, exhilarating tale of marriage with a cast of great characters and ample plot twists, this dark novel is by the same author of the thriller Under Your Skin.

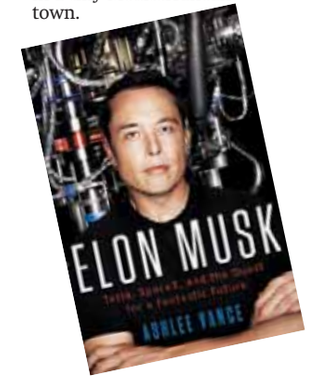
Alexandrian Summer by Yitzhak Gormezano Goren
Originally published in 1978 but now translated in English for the first time is a novel about two feuding Egyptian Jewish families. Set in 1951, it exposes sexual hypocrisies of the upper-middle class while hooking the readers with a dramatic storyline.

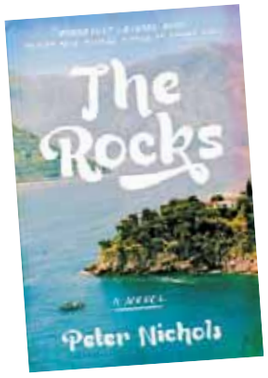
Red Queen by Victoria Aveyard
A girl with special powers must navigate a world of deadly court intrigue. Described as Game of Thrones meets X-Men — the book was instantly optioned for film by Universal and is on numerous must-read lists.

The Heir by Kiera Cass
The Bachelorette meets Cinderella as 35 men compete for the chance to marry a princess in this new story arc in Kiera Cass's internationally bestselling Selection series.

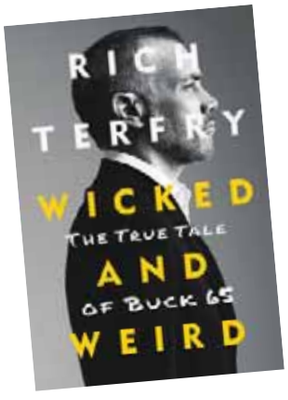
The Ultimatum by Dick Wolf
Law & Order creator Dick Wolf's new novel is about a detective tasked with hunting down a serial sniper who uses drone technology. The mystery novel will keep you guessing until the end.

The Rocks by Peter Nichols
Misbehaving strangers struggle with a 60-year-old secret that drove two lovers apart in a tiny Mediterranean town.





China Rich Girlfriend: A Novel by Kevin Kwan
The author of Crazy Rich Asians is back with this story about Rachel Chu, who is about to marry Asia's most eligible bachelor only to discover some family secrets and a long lost father.



Miss Emily by Nuala O'Connor (out July 14)
This beautifully written book imagines a complicated and compelling relationship between one of America's most reclusive literary icons, Emily Dickinson, and her young Irish maid.

Go Set a Watchman by Harper Lee (out July 14)
Harper Lee shocked book lovers everywhere when she announced she just so happened to have an unpublished sequel to To Kill a Mockingbird. The book features a now grownup Scout who is returning home to visit her father, Atticus.

Broken Promise by Linwood Barcley (out July 28)
The New York Times bestselling author is back with this story of a failed newsman who returns home with his nine-year-old son after the death of his wife only to discover a family secret of epic proportions.

Circling the Sun by Paula McLain (out July 28)
The Paris Wife author Paula McLain returns with Circling the Sun, set in 1920s Kenya. Beryl is a young woman, both bohemian and bold, who conquers everything from racehorse training to commercial piloting. The only thing she can't seem to control is her heart.

Kitchens of the Great Midwest by J. Ryan Stradal (out July 28)
Stradal's debut novel is a mother-daughter tale about life and how food creates community and a gives you a sense of identity.

The Dust that Falls from Dreams by Louis de Bernieres (out Aug. 4)
From the author of the international bestseller, Corelli's Mandolin, this sweeping Edwardian-era saga follows the fortunes of four British sisters and their band of friends as their golden childhood in the English countryside comes to an abrupt end with the outbreak of the First World War.

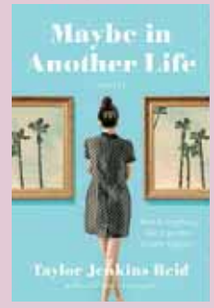
FOR THE COTTAGE

Finders Keepers by Stephen King
Following the same heroes introduced in his book Mr. Mercedes, Finders Keepers is King's story of an obsessed reader whose interest in a reclusive writer goes too far. This is the first time King revisits the reader-author obsession since his book Misery.

The Serpent Papers by Jessica Cornwell

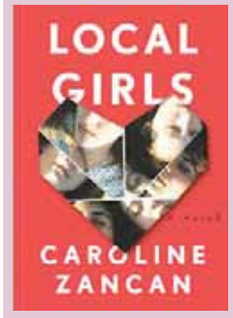
The first book in Jessica Cornwell's The Serpent Papers is sure to entrance with the introduction of Anna Verco, a young researcher who soon finds herself discovering a world of alchemy, magic and secrets after a series of murders in modern-day Barcelona.

Maybe in Another Life by Taylor Jenkins Reid (out July 7)
In this tale reminiscent of the film Sliding Doors, a young woman's future hinges on the decisions she makes when she bumps into an old flame. The novel is told in alternating chapters as we see the two possibilities play out.



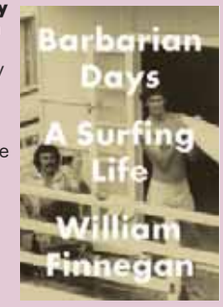
FOR THE BEACH

99 Days by Katie Cotugno
A perfect beach read, this book features a summer romance set in a small town while still tackling issues of girl-on-girl bullying and slut-shaming. Readers of John Green and Nicholas Sparks will enjoy this young adult novel.



Local Girls by Caroline Zancan (out June 30)
Caroline Zancan gifts us the friendship novel of the summer with this page-turner about four best friends, all 19 years old, and a hot movie star who shows up to their sleepy Florida town.

Barbarian Days by William Finnegan (out July 20)
An adventure story meets literary biography meets road movie meets exploration into the world of surfing in this novel which has made numerous best-of summer lists.

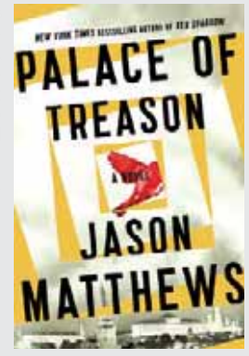


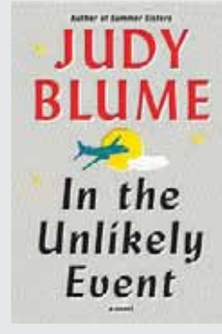
OYSTER PICKS

We asked Kevin Nguyen, the editorial director at Oyster (known as the "Netflix for books") what three releases he's excited about. He shares his picks below:

H is for Hawk by Helen Macdonald
"Helen Macdonald grapples with the death of her father by taking on the challenge of training a goshawk in one of the year's most devastating and cathartic memoirs."

Palace of Treason by Jason Matthews
"There's nothing better than a star-crossed Russian operative and a CIA agent for keeping you completely engrossed on a flight, beach or your hot summer subway ride. This followup to the bestselling 2013 thriller Red Sparrow might even make you wish you had a couple more stops so you could squeeze in a few extra pages."





In the Unlikely Event by Judy Blume
"For readers who grew up with the classic Are You There God? It's Me, Margaret, Judy Blume's new adult novel brings Blume's signature style together with an intricate multi-generational story about how people deal with love and loss."

NON-FICTION

The Domino Diaries by Brin-Jonathan Butler
Journalist Jonathan Butler spills about his 10 years as a journalist in Cuba, largely covering the boxing scene. Even if you're not a boxing fan, you'll be mesmerized with this up-close look at Cuba's fascinating culture.

I Like You Just the Way I Am by Jenny Mollen
Actress Jenny Mollen wrote this laugh-out-loud book with R-rated stories from her personal life, including hiring a prostitute for her husband Jason Biggs's birthday. Expect your fellow commuters to lean over your shoulder to see what you're cackling at.

Twisted by Bert Ashe
Writer Bert Ashe chronicles his quest to grow dreadlocks while giving a cultural history of the hairstyle, from originating in Jamaica to making its way to the States. His is a welcome fresh voice, starting a conversation about black culture from a quirky, fun angle.

Elon Musk by Ashlee Vance
This authorized bio of Elon Musk will offer a look at one of Silicon Valley's most ambitious entrepreneurs. Expect to be enthralled by this Tony Stark-like figure in the same way biographies like Moneyball and Steve Jobs were captivating in the past.

Modern Romance by Aziz Ansari
An in-depth look at modern romance presented with comic insight, Ansari travelled the globe and spoke to hundreds to give us this unique take on love.

Empire of Deception by Dean Jobb
In the tradition of bestselling books like The Devil in the White City and The Man in the Rockefeller Suit, Jobb combines investigative journalism and captivating storytelling to examine one of the greatest con artists of the twentieth century.

Let's Be Less Stupid by Patty Marx (out July 14)
Subtitled "An Attempt to Maintain my Mental Faculties," this book finds the former Saturday Night Live writer confessing to her memory failures in an attempt to regain the mental acuity of her 22-year-old self.

Wicked and Weird: The Amazing Tales of Buck 65 by Rich Terfry (out Aug. 11)
The CBC radio host gives us a glimpse into the world of his alter ego, Buck 65, taking us from small town Nova Scotia to his success as a musician.

‘Steeped in style of another sort’

REVIEW

Asian diaspora isn’t usually featured in pop-lit genre

Matt Kwong
For Metro

As an Asian dude, I’m weak tea.

My Cantonese is a mess of Canadian-accented “Ching-lish.” The only Chinese script I can write (my own name) might be mistaken for a child’s careful scrawl. When I visited Hong Kong as a teen, my auntie chided me for walking like a Westerner.

It’s nothing that would make for a book, but lifestyles of the Asian diaspora generally aren’t typical narratives in pop-lit. Not unless they deliver some affecting truths about the “old ways” of the East disappearing amid assimilation into the new world (see: Wayson Choy’s The Jade Peony), or reach-for-the-Kleenex historical vignettes used to impart maternal wisdom (Amy Tan’s The Joy Luck Club).

But the breezy beach read? The guilty-pleasure chick lit? Even the fun but weird experimental stuff about the modern pan-Asian experience? That’s harder to come by.

So I can appreciate that two Asian authors, each publishing wildly different releases this summer, did it with over-the-top style.

In Toronto-based writer Jon Chan Simpson’s debut, Chinkstar, it’s the style of hip-hop bravado, comic-book action and noir set in a gang-ridden Red Deer, Alta.

Kevin Kwan’s buzzy China Rich Girlfriend is steeped in style of another sort.

Fresh off his success for 2013’s Crazy Rich Asians, Kwan’s followup returns to a world of Singapore society pages, couture gowns, ultra-exclusive Hong Kong supper clubs, Ferrari-crashing skirt-chasers and jet-setter billionaires competing to buy status antiquities.

Asian identity aside, Simpson and Kwan serve up a banquet of oddball characters in their books that just about any reader should find exotic.

The events in Chinkstar are set in motion after Run, a 17-year-old “halfchi” born by a Chinese mother and Scottish father, hunts for his missing older brother, emcee King Kwong, the rapper leader of a Tao-inspired doctrine called The Movement.

What begins as a whodunnit later assumes the character of a graphic novel without the art panels, packing in kung-fu violence and the kind of macho, portentous dialogue that brings to mind comics writer Frank Miller’s 1980s work on Batman.

Simpson, identified by Quill & Quire as a writer to watch, freestyles with language, reappropriating racial slurs and slang (“What up, slants?” a character greets another; “Chinkstas for life,” Run tells his mother).

“Gats” fire golden “caps,” men leer at “honeys” in the club, brawling characters eat “mad knuckle,” and a lot of four-letter words we can’t print here fill Simpson’s pages. If you can get past the lingo-heavy but lyrical prose — or read, as I did, with UrbanDictionary.com open in a tab — there’s a uniquely superfly story to be found.

Kwan’s China Rich Girlfriend weaves footnotes throughout, with translations for Hokkien swears, descriptions of Singaporean desserts, and helpful asides such as one informing us the Bugatti Veyron is the “fastest street-legal production car in the world.”

A cast of conniving, passive-aggressive aunties make for sharp social satire, with the nuptials of Rachel Chu and Nick Young driving a plot involving twisty family drama in some of Asia’s most opulent settings.

Kwan actually toned down some of the real-life spend-thriftness he encountered during his book research throughout China.

One way or another, it’s an entertaining look at an unbelievable world of consumption. Like the rap-infused Chinkstar, China Rich Girlfriend has more fun with swagger and style than on laying down life lessons or ancient Chinese wisdom. Genre fiction is probably richer for it.

Author Kevin Kwan’s latest has more fun with swagger and sharp social satire than on laying down life lessons or ancient Chinese wisdom. CHRIS YOUNG/FILE PHOTO

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Culture takes the rap

CROSS-CULTURAL MASHUP

Novel about Chinese hip-hop scene crushes stereotypes

BOOKWORM
Sue Carter

There's a balletic scene in Bruce Lee's final film, 1978's Game of Death, where the kung-fu legend spectacularly fights and (and kills) 7-foot-2-inch basketball star Kareem Abdul-Jabbar. Cross-cultural mashups are nothing new in film and music, and yet when Jon Chan Simpson wrote a short piece about a Chinese rap scene while working on his creative-writing masters degree at University of Toronto, the pervasive reaction to his scenario was amusement.

"I found the response sad and disturbing, and a little weird," Simpson says. "This is what happens when two stereotypes are brought together, and it doesn't fit with what people think of them. It's similar to the reason that people find rapping grannies funny."

Simpson realized he was onto a bigger idea about cultural perceptions than a short story could explore, and began writing what would become his debut novel, Chinkstar, publishing in July with Coach House Books. Set in Simpson's hometown of Red Deer, Alta., the story follows Run, a Chinese-Scottish misfit living in the shadow of his brother Kwong, the reigning lord of the city's thriving chinksta rap scene.

While Red Deer isn't the most obvious location for a fictional Chinese hip-hop community, Simpson's decision to place his story there is a subtle nod to the entire province being on the cusp of radical political change. "Alberta strikes me as this place you don't think something could happen until it does," he says.

Jon Chan Simpson CONTRIBUTED

When Kwong goes missing and his mother is hit with a stray bullet, Run reluctantly searches for his sibling, while attempting to dodge rival gangs and repeated punches to the face. The book's relentless energy and comics-style violence owes as much to Lee's deadly side kicks as Jackie Chan and Chris Tucker's Rush Hour franchise, and repeated listenings to Wu-Tang Clan and gangsta rap.

Simpson also studied freestyle rhymes, examining the improvised language closely, which he says turned out to be a great lesson in writing and poetry, and provides some of the book's most entertaining wordplay: "You know they sayin' it's a white man's world and that rap be black music, / but like a fine oolong I be here to infuse it."

While Chinkstar could easily be read as a fun action-movie mashup in itself, on another level, the book asks us to examine our own reactions to accepted cultural stereotypes.

"What happens when one racialized group expresses itself in the voice of another racialized group?" asks Simpson. "My hope is to start a conversation."

> **What happens when one racialized group expresses itself in the voice of another racialized group? My hope is to start a conversation.**
> Jon Cham Simpson, author of Chinkstar

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Awkward! Hookups gone wrong

DEBUT BOOK

Isaac Oliver's intimacy tales will leave you breathless... with laughter

Matt Lee
Metro in New York City

When it comes to getting intimate, comic writer Isaac Oliver is no idiot.

His hysterical debut book, Intimacy Idiot, is a collection of essays, vignettes, poems, lists and diary entries that document the poignant, hilarious and awkward moments of intimacy between humans.

Metro caught up with Oliver on the phone during which he discussed writing.

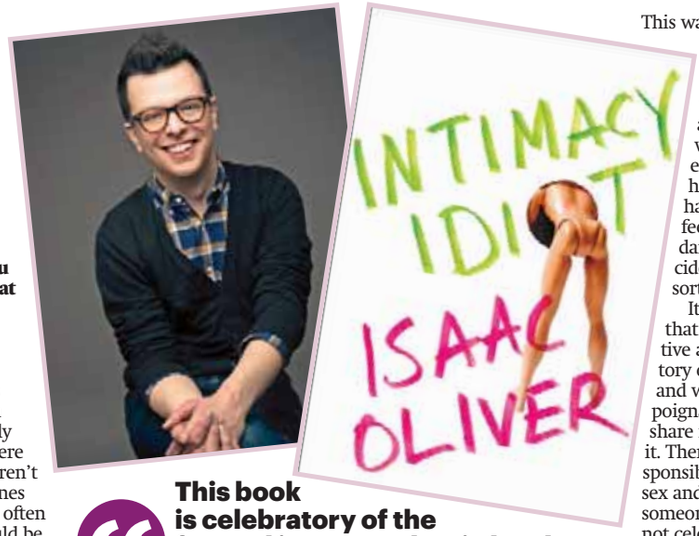
How do you find these moments in Intimacy Idiot?
The book is sort of a collection of things that happened over several years. It's not like they all happened in the span of two insane months. I don't sort of seek out stories per se, and I'm certainly not on Grindr thinking, "Oh, he looks dramaturgically exciting."

You don't?!
Not at all.

You don't look for people where you're like, "You look like you might murder me? That sounds exciting"?
Exactly. I haven't had a murder scare yet, so, second book!

I think everyone has stories like this. I mean there were a lot of really boring hookups that were unremarkable, that weren't story-worthy, but the ones that were — they were often the hookups that I would be thinking about like days later.

One of my favourite chapters in Intimacy Idiot was Big Ben. Your description of the events prior to the hookup with this dude and his very large package had me laughing non-stop. Then the chapter became very real and very serious when the topic of protection came up.
That took me a very long time to write. A lot of people commented and sort of shared, or expressed concern (about the story) and my parents were a little horrified to read that.



> **This book is celebratory of the fun and joyous and weird and sometimes poignant moments you can share in casual sex**
> Isaac Oliver, author of Intimacy Idiot

This was before there was sort of the epilogue, you know, before I found him again online and we reconnected for a conversation but it was sort of the darkest the modern-day gay hooking-up trajectory has taken me and I don't feel a great inkling to go darker. It was sort of accidentally a reckoning of sorts.

It's important to me that this book is sex-positive and sort of celebratory of the fun and joyous and weird and sometimes poignant moments you can share in casual sex. I mean it. There's a way to have responsible, thoughtful casual sex and still be intimate with someone and I never want to not celebrate that or condemn that in any way, but there was this encounter with this guy where we were not communicating.

We wanted different things and we were having just a strange fight that evolved into him literally screaming "Why are you doing this to me?" which is so outlandish — that it just started with something so banal and commonplace in gay hookups, to fight over the condom and how far people will take that, which we've all grappled with.

Onto a different subject, the title of the book is Intimacy Idiot. Can you describe an Intimacy Idiot? How do I know if I am one?
Well, I would never call you an intimacy idiot. I would never call anyone else that! It's self-identifying. For me, it's about the very New York experience of being intimate with a large group of people sitting in total silence on a bus or on a subway. But then what happens when you're in a room alone with someone?

It's that moment of opening your mouth and speaking to one person that just feels so backwards to me — of just my ability to sort of be in a crowd or large group of people or on a stage reading these stories to an audience and feeling completely comfortable, but then sitting at a restaurant table with a handsome man and not really knowing how to conduct myself.

4 TOP LOOKS FROM MILAN FOR MEN

Here are some highlights from the men's shows in Milan for next spring and summer, including Armani, Calvin Klein, Ferragamo and Prada (which included women in their menswear runway). TEXT AND PHOTOS: THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

FERRAGAMO

Whimsy in the wild

Massimo Giornetti reached for a youthful audience with an idiosyncratic collection that included off-kilter graphic prints of cacti and monkeys, bold colour panels on suits and pinstripes dressing up bomber jackets.

For the more traditional customer, there were double-breasted and single-button suit jackets, often paired with more adventurous colour-block tops. Giornetti tapped the brand's leatherwear DNA with an ultra-luxurious graphic shirt that appeared to be panels of brightly coloured crocodile.

ARMANI

Easy, breezy

Armani's warm-weather styles for 2016 communicate comfort and lightness, from the elegant, light fabrics to the comfortable, roomy cuts to the easy way of dressing. An off-skew vest is all the shirt an Armani man needs under his jacket. Colours were cool Mediterranean blues, with shades of nude and grey.

The trouser defined the look. Roomy pleated pants had three lengths: ankle, cropped at mid-calf or pedal pushers, ready to hop on a city bike like one pushed down the runway by a model.

CALVIN KLEIN

Practical magic

Is there anything more refreshing to the fashion palate than blue jeans, a white T-shirt and a pair of well-cut khaki coloured trousers that aren't chinos? It's back to basics at Calvin Klein, where men's creative director Italo Zucchelli presented a utilitarian collection that works for the man, and not the other way around.

The mainly monochrome looks featured T-shirts or sweaters with suit jackets and tailored trousers, or for more casual outings simply T-shirts with jeans or trousers with big tablet-size pockets, usually cuffed.

PRADA

A modest presence

Miuccia Prada says her menswear collection explores the role of modesty in an era that requires self-promotion.

The men's looks had a slouchy feel, such as silken shirts open to the belt and haplessly tucked in. The looks were paired with trousers with contrasting pockets or loose-fitting short shorts.

The female models, who have been included in Prada's menswear shows in recent seasons, sported a neater look with pleated skirts in contrasting panels and striped sweaters with pointy shoes.

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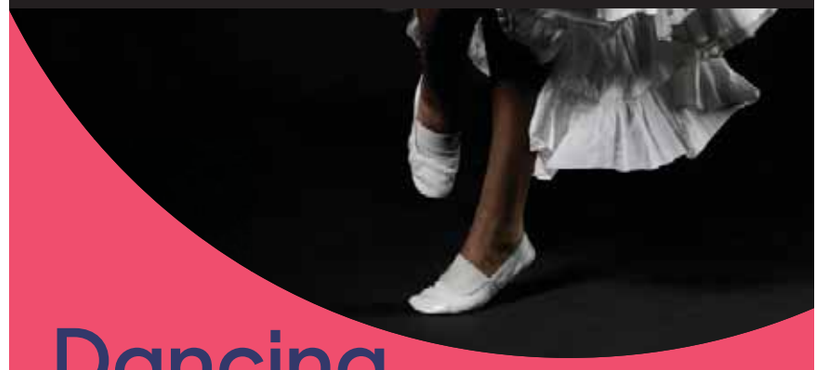

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CHANNING'S LIKE, "G.I. NO"; LINDSAY WANTS TO START OVER IN LONDON TOWN

Channing Tatum really hated G.I. Joe

Channing Tatum has done a pretty great job of maintaining his loveable nicest guy in Hollywood image, but apparently he isn't chipper and cheerful about everything. And one particular kids cartoon franchise-starter left a very bad taste in his mouth. "Look, I'll be honest. I f—ing hate that movie," he tells Howard Stern about G.I. Joe: the Rise of Cobra, Tatum's first big action flick and part of a three-picture deal with Paramount. "The studio calls up and they're like, 'Hey, we got a movie for you. We're going to send it to you.' And it was right during the writers' strike. And it's G.I. Joe. I'm like, 'Look, G.I. Joe? I love G.I. Joe. Can I play Snake Eyes?' And they're like, 'No. You're not playing Snake Eyes.' 'Hey, you're doing this. You're doing this or we're going to sue you.'" If that's not bad enough, doing that film didn't really get him the kind of attention he was looking for. "The Coen Brothers aren't watching G.I. Joe," Tatum says.

LiLo is teasing us about London move again

It's a new season, the equinox is behind us, so obviously we're due for another bout of Lindsay Lohan going on and on about how amazing London is and she's totally thinking of making it her new home. "I can definitely see myself settling in London permanently," she tells Hello! Magazine. "I'm in a really good place. I'm blessed to have been able to do a play in London and start a different way of life. New York is very fast paced and it's not like that over here for me. You grow up and change, and I'm really happy about that, as overall I feel a lot better. For me, I feel more comfortable working from London." You know what, Ms. Lohan? We don't like empty promises. Stop talking about never coming back to the States already and just do it.

Johnny Depp, dressed as Captain Jack Sparrow from the Pirates of the Caribbean. GETTY IMAGES

Studio tells Depp to get shipshape

FILMING

Apparently the captain's been having a bit too much rum

IN HOLLYWOOD
Ned Ehrbar

Johnny Depp has apparently been causing more problems on the set of the new Pirates of the Caribbean beyond getting into trouble for smuggling terriers.

Studio bigwigs reportedly staged an intervention to get Depp to knock off the partying he's been doing and take the job seriously, according to the National Enquirer.

"They've told him in no uncertain terms that he needs to clean up his act and concentrate on making the movie. He had a big sit-down with the head of Disney Pictures, as well as producer Jerry Bruckheimer, his agents and a few close friends," a source says.

> **Basically, they told Johnny he had to get his act together.**
> Source

"Basically, they told Johnny he had to get his act together. Johnny apologized to the crew and producers when he finally got back to Australia from L.A."

Not only that, he also reportedly hired a sober coach to help him out. None of this, of course, explains why we need another Pirates of the Caribbean movie, but I suppose we can't have everything.

MEMORABILIA MUSEUM

Take a walk in the world of Seinfeld

Seinfeld fans are getting an open invitation into Jerry's apartment.

Hulu has teamed up with production shop Magnetic Collaborative to remake Jerry Seinfeld's TV apartment for the iconic show's Wednesday release of all nine seasons on the streaming video service.

Hulu created a free memorabilia museum with the world-famous Upper West Side apartment re-located in Manhattan's Meatpacking District. Seinfeld lovers can walk through a real-life model of the apartment and see different set items such as the Monk's Cafe table and booth, the Festivus Pole and George Costanza's photo shoot set from different episodes. There is also a canvas "brick wall" full of signatures from the show's many stars, guests and crew.

Larry Thomas, who played the memorable Soup Nazi, believes Seinfeld remains popular because of the show's relationships and the crazy situations its main characters — Jerry, Kramer, Elaine and George — found themselves in.

"What Seinfeld really was about was these people, the way they treat each other, the way they treat the world and, you know, the way the world treats them, and it had nothing to do with the '90s or the technology or some of the other things," Thomas said.

The '90s sitcom was a ratings success during its NBC run from 1989 to 1998, and TV Guide named it the greatest television program of all time in 2002.

The pop-up exhibit is open through Sunday at Milk Studios. Admission is free.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hulu's recreation of the Seinfeld apartment. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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The larger the room, the more depth its wall colour needs: Hunter Douglas

Riverside Square in Toronto is an example of complete streets, designed to offer better safety and improved economic and environmental benefits for cities. CONTRIBUTED

City makes way for Woonerfs

CONDOS

Cyclists, pedestrians, drivers share open avenues

CONDO TRENDS
Duncan McAllister

Toronto has become one of the largest centres of condominium development in North America. In this fast-growing city, the degree of residential intensification moving into the core is a clear sign that Torontonians have a desire to move back into the downtown.

When a condo community is built, the neighbourhood changes. Surrounding communities benefit from rejuvenated streetscapes, new parks, fresh retail choices and public art. In building these projects, developers have an opportunity to shape thriving, mixed-use neighbourhoods.

The concept of complete streets emphasizes the importance of safe access for all users, whether cycling, walking, driving, riding public transportation or delivering goods. It's a transportation policy and design approach that planners say will offer improved safety, and economic and environmental benefits for cities.

> **It's going to be all about back to the basics and back to the streets**
> Rob Spanier, partner and principal, LiveWorkLeanPlay

Here's a neat idea that totally embodies the spirit of complete streets: Toronto has its first Woonerf in the West Don Lands. What's a Woonerf, you may ask? It's a Dutch word meaning "living street."

Popular in Europe, these open avenues are shared equally by pedestrians, cyclists, baby strollers and delivery vans. Motorists have to pay attention, as there's no curb on either side.

"There's a huge evolution going on. It's going to be all about back to the basics and back to the streets," says Rob Spanier, partner and principal of real estate development and advisory firm, LiveWorkLeanPlay.

The company is responsible for implementing the retail strategy for the Athletes' Village for the 2015 Pan Am and Parapan Am Games.

"I totally believe that the ground floor is exactly where people live. They live on the streets, they live in these places and spaces. They sleep upstairs or they work upstairs. You can sleep anywhere, but people are choosing where to work and where to live based on that ground-floor experience," says Spanier.

A great example of complete streets is Riverside Square, a new, master-planned condo community between Broadview and the Don Valley.

The project is the vision of Streetcar Developments and will consist of a campus of mixed-use buildings centred around an open-concept public plaza with wide pedestrian promenades.

"It has a very different context than one of our typical neighbourhood developments," says Streetcar principal Les Mallins. "We're creating all the streets in this case."

He says the pedestrian realm at street level really drives the character of the development.

"We're really looking for retailers that can animate the streets and bring life to this stretch of Queen Street."

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ADVICE

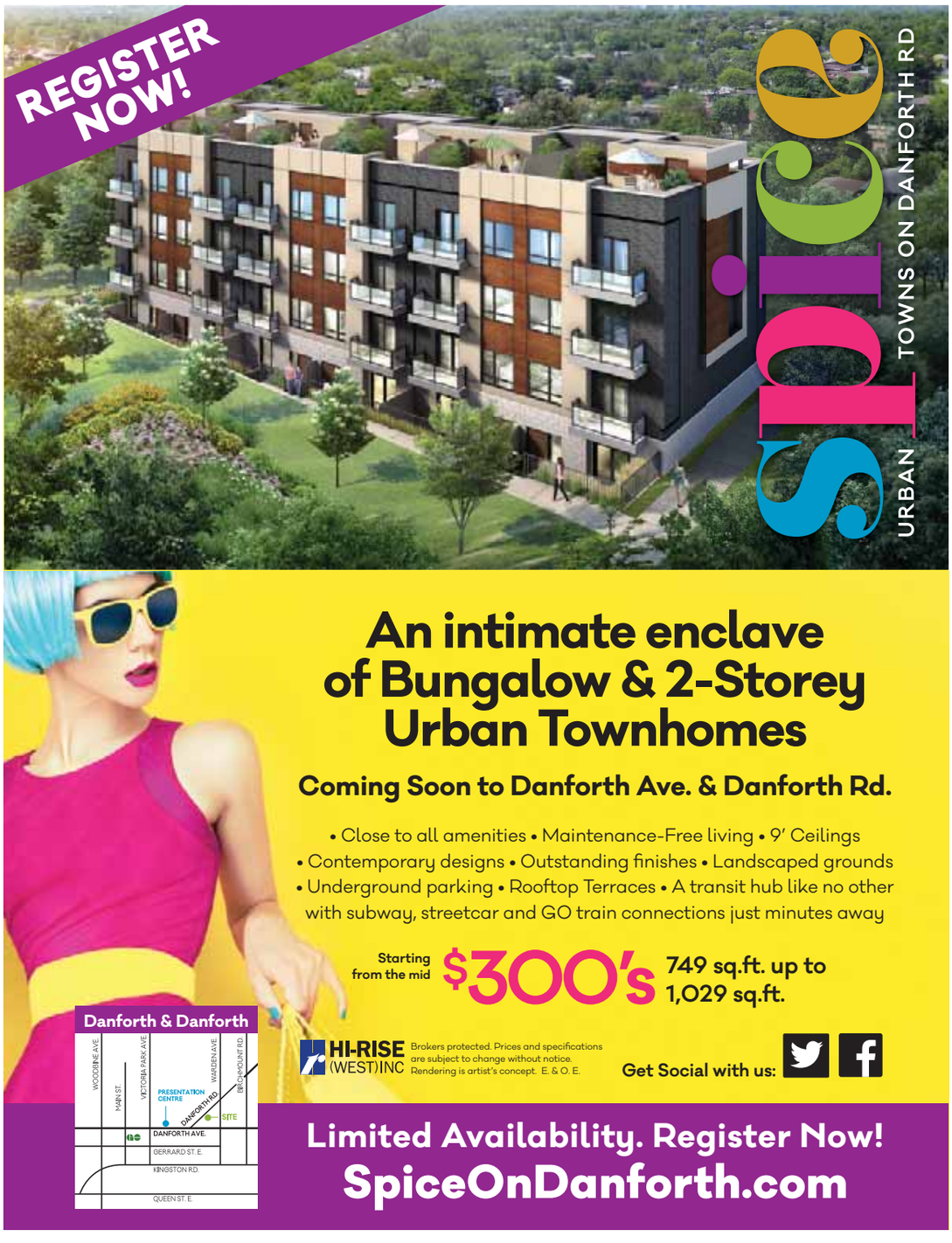
Leak sparks responsibility question

LEGAL MATTERS

Jeffrey Cowan

Q: We sold our condo about three months back with no hassle and just today received an e-mail from the purchaser's agent (through our agent) that the shower stall in the guest bedroom had been leaking and it had damaged the floor and drywall in the closet adjacent to the wall with the shower. This was discovered because the new owner pulled up the flooring in the closet to install new hardwood and found the damage and some mould. The buyer is claiming we are responsible because it is apparent the problem had existed during our ownership. Is this true?

A: The answer to your question is not simple. It seems what you are dealing with is a "latent defect." This basically is a problem with a property that was not apparent at the time of closing. The test to see who is responsible is this: if the vendor knew about the problem, did not disclose it, AND the buyer can prove the vendor had knowledge of the problem. In this case it seems apparent you had no knowledge of the problem as it wasn't until the buyer lifted the flooring months after the transaction that the leak became apparent. Unless there is something I am missing, you shouldn't be held responsible for this new reality. Your lawyer can walk you through this in greater detail to make sure you're on the right side of this problem.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Project overview

The Victoria Park and Sheppard Avenue area is one of Toronto's most desirable and mature neighbourhoods for affordable urban living. The project consists of a gracefully curving tower, to become a notable landmark in the area's growing skyline.

Building amenities

Residents will have access to a multi-purpose party room that opens up to a fully landscaped outdoor courtyard. There will also be a fully equipped fitness centre.

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Pricing: Starting at $199,900
Suites: Studio, one bedroom, two bedroom and three bedroom
Status: Pre-construction, registration phase
Occupancy: Fall/winter 2018
Info: sailcondos.ca, 416-756-7245

Location and transit

The building will be near transit and the proposed Sheppard LRT, so you can be downtown within 45 minutes. Motorists will have quick access to hwighways 401, 404 and the Don Valley Parkway.

In the neighbourhood

Sail condo will be surrounded by several shopping and dining options. It's within walking distance to Fairview Mall and Victoria Park Square, and near schools and parks.

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REAL ESTATE

What's hot on the market

DUNCAN McALLISTER

1 ETOBICOKE

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2 FASHION DISTRICT

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CONTACT: CAMERON WEIR, SCOTT HANTON, 416-465-4545

3 MAPLE

Sales event: The Model Row event is now on at Liv townhomes at Keele and Major Mackenzie, with a collection of 14 homes on offer. Head on up to 10060 Keele St.
CONTACT: LIV@OSKARGROUP.COM, LIVTOWNHOMES.COM

Many in GTA priced out of lowrise market

Bryan Tuckey

The average price of a new lowrise home in the GTA hit an all-new high in May, making it harder than ever and impossible for many people to buy ground-related homes in this region.

Last week, BILD released May GTA new-home sales and prices, which showed the average price of detached homes, semi-detached homes and townhomes — also known as low-rise or ground-related housing — was $783,955. That is an increase of 16 per cent since May 2014. All of these numbers are from RealNet Canada Inc., BILD's official source for new-home market intelligence.

The soaring prices of lowrise housing is largely the result of limited supply due to a lack of shovel-ready land that is serviced and ready for development. Homes are being bought faster than they can be brought to market, which means demand is outpacing supply. All of this is driving up prices and significantly affecting choice for new-home buyers, making it even more challenging for people to afford a lowrise home.

To meet buyer needs, our members are introducing more options for lowrise housing. For example, $783,955 can get you a townhome in downtown Toronto, a semi-detached house in Mississauga or a detached home in Brampton, among others.

> **Homes are being bought faster than they can be brought to market**

For the many who have been completely priced out of the lowrise market, there are many highrise housing options available and plenty of choice when it comes to budget and location.

Highrise condominiums make up about 80 per cent of all new homes for sale in the GTA, and there is a lot to choose from, whether you want to live in the City of Toronto or in the 905.

The healthy supply of condos also means prices have been stable and not rising as quickly as lowrise homes. In fact, the average price of new highrise homes in May was relatively unchanged from April at $440,463.

Meanwhile, the price gap between highrise and lowrise homes is now at a record high of $343,492. The gap has been widening rapidly, growing by more than $100,000 in the last year alone. This is an issue because the larger the gap, the harder it is for people to move from a condo to a ground-rated home if they want or need to.

Our region continues to grow rapidly, and to accommodate that growth we need an adequate supply of lowrise homes to ensure healthy levels of housing choice.

BRYAN TUCKEY IS PRESIDENT AND CEO OF THE BUILDING INDUSTRY AND LAND DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION (BILD) AND A LAND-USE PLANNER WHO HAS WORKED FOR MUNICIPAL, REGIONAL AND PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS.

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DESIGN CENTRE
Karl Lohnes

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2 Beantown Bedding Laundry-Free Linens
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3 Lunch Bag Mini Container Set
Bring just enough hotdog toppings for the weekend. $8/four-bottle set, GoldasKitchen.com

4 Keurig 2.0 K200 Brewing System
Brew a cup or a carafe without the mess of grinding beans and finding paper filters. $120, Keurig.ca

5 Weiser Powerbolt 1000 Electronic Deadbolt Lock
No keys to lose and once guests are gone their secret code can be deleted. $100, Weiserlock.com

6 GE Plug-In 24 hour Mechanical Timer
Ensure lights are turned on and off in a timely manner. $16, HomeDepot.ca

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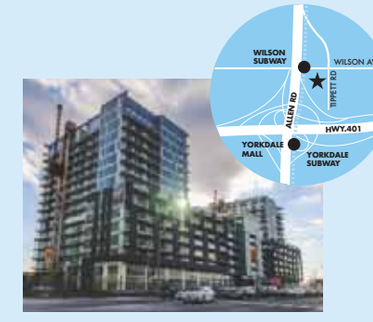

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metro SPORTS

Multiple reports have Kevin Love opting out of his contract to enter free agency

Thursday, June 25, 2015

IN BRIEF

CFL, players' union vow to strengthen drug policy

The CFL and CFL Players' Association said Wednesday they will meet to strengthen the league's drug policy after it came under heavy criticism from the World Anti-Doping Agency.

Neither side said when the meetings would begin.

On Monday, WADA director general David Howman said the league needed to overhaul its system that undermines drug education of amateur athletes by failing to suspend players who test positive while competing in other leagues.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada defender Moscato denies low-morale remark

Veteran defender Carmelina Moscato has dismissed comments attributed to her that morale in the Canadian camp is poor at the Women's World Cup.

Former Canadian international Christine Latham, now working as a TV analyst, said prior to the TV broadcast of the Canada-Swiss game that Moscato had told her there were problems in the camp.

Latham said Moscato was also concerned about Canada's starting 11 selection. Moscato rebutted the comments saying Latham had misrepresented her words. THE CANADIAN PRESS

TFC'S BIG 3

Toronto FC's Jozy Altidore, left, and Donny Toia of the Montreal Impact battle for the ball at BMO Field on Thursday night. Altidore, Michael Bradley and Sebastian Giovinco each scored in the TFC's 3-1 victory.

FRANK GUNN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Estrada allowing nada

MLB

Jays pitcher works wonders for a second straight start

Blue Jays starting pitcher Marco Estrada walks back to the dugout after giving up his first hit of the game against the Rays in the eighth inning on Wednesday in St. Petersburg, Fla. BRIAN BLANCO/GETTY IMAGES

Marco Estrada made a run at history for the second consecutive start and came up just short again.

Estrada lost his bid for a perfect game on Logan Forsythe's infield single with one out in the eighth inning, but Chris Colabello homered in the 12th to lift the Toronto Blue Jays over the Tampa Bay Rays 1-0 on Wednesday.

Estrada also carried a no-hit bid into the eighth inning of his previous start Friday against Baltimore. This time, he struck out 10 and threw a career-high 129 pitches.

"He's been on some kind of roll," Blue Jays manager John Gibbons said.

Forsythe barely beat out a slow chopper to third that Josh Donaldson fielded barehanded. Donaldson's throw to first was just a hair too late.

"It was a little frustrating just because it wasn't hit very hard," Estrada said. "Donaldson made a great play. The guy can run a little bit, so he beat it out."

Toronto challenged the safe call by umpire Joe West, which was confirmed after a 40-second replay review.

"It wasn't a pretty hit, but it was a hit," Forsythe said. "But hats off to him."

Tampa Bay's only other hit off Estrada was Kevin Kiermaier's two-out double in the ninth that chased the right-hander.

"The ninth inning, I gave up a hard-hit ball to Kiermaier. That made it a little better," Estrada said. "Easier to forget about."

Colabello connected for a one-out shot to centre off Brandon Gomes (1-3).

It was the Blue Jays' first homer in the 12th inning or later to break a scoreless tie since Jesse Barfield did it on Sept. 26, 1986, at Boston.

"I'm proud of the guys, but that's what they're made of. This is a more character team than we've had in the past," Gibbons said.

WEDNESDAY At Tampa

BLUE JAYS	RAYS
1	0

Brett Cecil (2-4) escaped a bases-loaded jam in the 11th, and Steve Delabar got three outs for his first save of the season.

Donaldson dove a couple of rows into the stands to catch David DeJesus' foul pop leading off the eighth.

"I thought it was pretty neat," Donaldson said. "I was just trying to do anything I can to help get outs at that time."

Nathan Karns took a no-hit bid into the sixth for the Rays, but exited one inning later after giving up consecutive singles to Edwin Encarnacion and Dioner Navarro. Kevin Jepsen pitched out of the jam by getting three straight outs.

Karns gave up three hits, three walks and struck out five over six-plus innings.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

INJURY UPDATE

John Gibbons said rookie 2B Devon Travis (shoulder) is expected back Friday after missing 36 games.

GETTY IMAGES

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

NHL formally opens expansion process

The NHL's board of governors has given the green light to opening a formal expansion process.

Commissioner Gary Bettman announced the decision at an afternoon news conference in Las Vegas while insisting it's no guarantee that the NHL will add a 31st or 32nd team.

Nevertheless it's an important step toward expanding the league. Interested parties will have from July 6 until August 10 to apply.

"We will then go through a formal vetting process, and the board ultimately will determine whether or not there's any interest in expanding," Bettman said. "If the conclusion is there is interest from the league's perspective, then there will be focus on what the terms would be and who the likely successful candidates might be."

Deputy commissioner Bill Daly added that the 2017-18 season would be the earliest an expansion team would debut in the NHL.

Bill Foley's Hockey Vision Las Vegas is at the forefront of expansion talk, and the city is the favourite to get a franchise.

The Las Vegas season-ticket drive received 13,200 deposits for seats at the brand new arena that's set to open next spring, according to Daly.

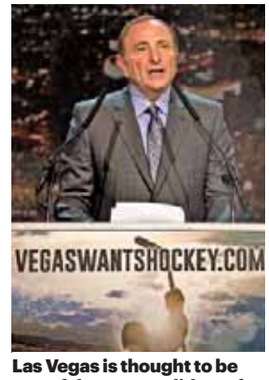
Seattle and Quebec City are other leading candidates and Toronto is another possibility. Daly said other cities, such as Milwaukee, Portland and Kansas City have also expressed interest.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

PRICE SCORES AWARDS HAT TRICK

Montreal's Carey Price was the biggest winner at the NHL awards on Wednesday, capturing the Hart Trophy, Vezina Trophy and Ted Lindsay Award.

Price became the first goaltender since Dominik Hasek in 1998 to be named MVP, top goaltender and most outstanding player as voted by the NHLPA.



Las Vegas is thought to be one of the top candidates for expansion for Gary Bettman and the NHL.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

CFL SEASON PREVIEW

Intriguing storylines for 2015

Ricky Ray
FRANK GUNN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Henry Burris GETTY IMAGES FILE

Michael Sam
RYAN REMIORZ/THE CANADIAN PRESS

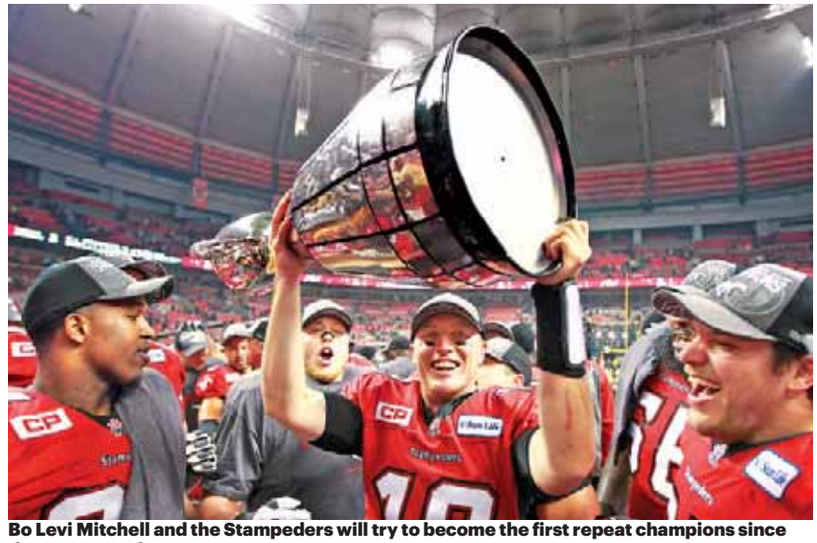
Quarterback health, the challenge of repeating, a second-year team trying to gain respectability, some scheduling quirks and the uncertain status of a high-profile player are just some of the storylines heading into the CFL season.

Quarterbacking question marks

The most important position on the field remains a relative unknown for a few teams heading into 2015. Ricky Ray will start the season on the six-game injured list for the Toronto Argonauts as he continues to recover from off-season surgery on his throwing shoulder. The B.C. Lions are hoping to have Travis Lulay back under centre after two injury-plagued seasons, but no one really knows how his shoulder will hold up until he takes a few hits. Meanwhile in Saskatchewan, Roughriders quarterback Darian Durant missed the end of last season with an elbow injury, but is back after undergoing surgery.

Let's do it again

The Calgary Stampeders won the 102nd Grey Cup last November, but can they do it again in 2015? Only two teams have repeated since the Edmonton Eskimos won five straight titles from 1978 to 1982 — the 1996-97 Toronto Argonauts and the 2009-10 Montreal Alouettes. Life is tough at the top when everyone is gunning for you. It will be interesting to see how the Stampeders respond and if they can go back-to-back when the 103rd Grey Cup is played on Nov. 29 in Winnipeg.



Bo Levi Mitchell and the Stampeders will try to become the first repeat champions since the 2009-10 Alouettes. JEFF VINNICK/GETTY IMAGES

Redblacks reboot

The Ottawa Redblacks head into their second season coming off a dismal 2-16 campaign. The club is still led by 40-year-old quarterback Henry Burris and upgraded the receiver position in the off-season with the additions of Maurice Price, Ernest Jackson, Greg Ellingson, Brad Sinopoli and Chris Williams. But the Redblacks' success will come down to Burris, who needs to rebound after a sub-par campaign where he began to show his age. Ottawa scored just 278 points last season, an average of 15.4 points per game. Ottawa sold out every home date in 2014 and fans are starved for a winner. No football team in the nation's capital has posted a record above .500 since the Rough Riders finished 11-5 back in 1978.

Should the Stampeders repeat as champs, it will be the franchise's eighth Grey Cup. The Argos lead the pack with 16 Grey Cup titles.

Pan Am nomads

Southern Ontario will host the Pan Am Games this summer, meaning the Toronto Argonauts and Hamilton Tiger-Cats won't play in their own digs until August. The Argonauts open the season as the home team in their matchup against the Edmonton Eskimos this Saturday, but that one is being played in Fort McMurray, Alta. The Tiger-Cats have not lost at home since moving into Tim Hortons Field last September, and will put that unbeaten mark to the test on Aug. 3 against Toronto. The Argonauts don't play their first home game at Rogers Centre until Aug. 8 against the Saskatchewan Roughriders.

Tedford's tempo

The B.C. Lions hired former California Golden Bears head coach Jeff Tedford after a disappointing 2014. Tedford wants his team to play at a high tempo and it will be interesting to see how his philosophies mix with the Canadian game. Tedford played and coached in the CFL, but has been away from three-down football since the early 1990s. He has brought in veteran co-ordinator George Cortez in hopes of kick-starting an offence that spent long stretches of last season stuck in neutral.

Sam's status

Michael Sam made headlines when he signed with the Montreal Alouettes prior to training camp. The defensive lineman was the first openly gay player ever drafted in the NFL, but he couldn't catch on there and instead looked north to continue his career. Sam's status remains unclear after he left the Alouettes earlier this month for what the team described as "personal reasons." If he returns, his first season in professional football will be one to watch. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Cook time: 18 minutes
Serves: 4

Ingredients
- 3 Tbsp low-sodium soy sauce
- 3 Tbsp rice vinegar
- 2 Tbsp honey
- 2 tsp crushed garlic
- 2 tsp sesame oil
- 4 tsp vegetable oil
- 2 Tbsp water
- 3/4 lb lean chicken cut into cubes
- 1 tsp cornstarch
- 1 large green bell pepper, cut into sixteen 1-inch pieces
- 1 small white onion, cut into sixteen 1-inch pieces
- 16 small mushrooms

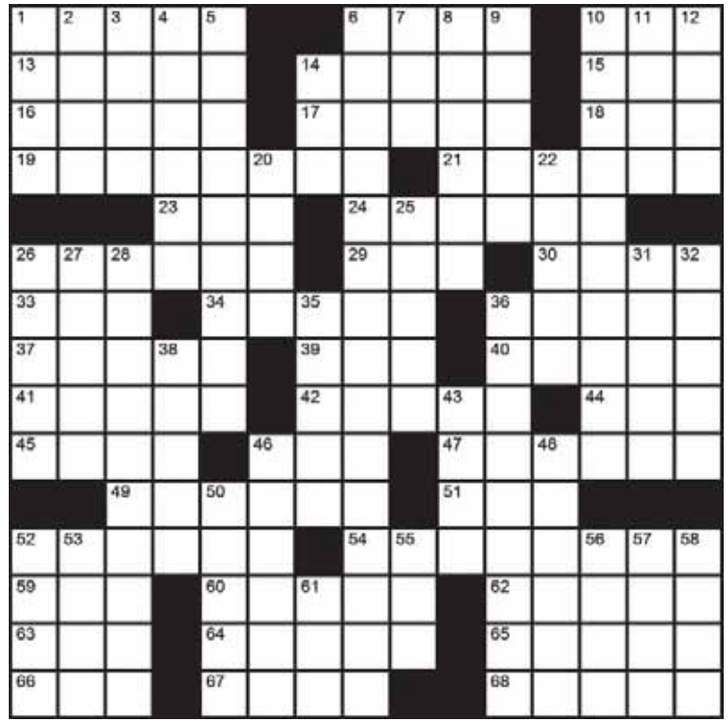
Directions
1. Combine the soy sauce, vinegar, honey, garlic, sesame and vegetable oils and water in a bowl. Add the chicken and marinate for 15 minutes.
2. Spray the barbecue with cooking oil and preheat to medium-high. Remove the chicken from the marinade. Place the marinade in a small saucepan and whisk in the cornstarch until dissolved. Cook over medium-low heat for five minutes until thick and syrupy. If too thick, add a little water. Set half of the sauce aside.
3. Thread the chicken, green peppers, onions and mushrooms alternately onto eight metal skewers. Barbecue, turning and brushing with half of the marinade frequently, for 10 to 15 minutes, or until cooked through and no longer pink. Serve with the remaining marinade on the side.

Nutrition per serving
- Calories 199

PHOTO: ROSE REISMAN

CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. 'Straight'-meaning prefix
6. ...six, __, huit....
10. Poetic contraction
13. "It's __ __ the Game" by Tommy Edwards
14. Actress Maria
15. Lance of 1990s judging
16. Weather mixture
17. Make a party platter faux pas
18. Novel
19. In Edmonton, it has a man-made lake: William __ Park
21. "__ Street"
23. JD __, Canadian rapper
24. Not-present status
26. Rocker brothers Joel or Benji
29. Bzzz-er
30. Dethrone
33. Stray
34. Vaults
36. Maison's entrance
37. Music hits list
39. Swallowed
40. Sleep __
41. Pens
42. Speak
44. Corn unit
45. Perched on
46. 'Meth' suffix
47. Fierce weather events
49. Drink of the gods
51. Group of Seven painter Mr. Jackson, et al.
52. Rent out your apartment
54. "Cityline" lifestyle/DIY expert, __-__ Allaire Perrault
59. Cubed food flavouring brand
60. Unexpressed, but understood
62. Jack of "The Texas Rangers" (1936)
63. Mauna __ (Hawaiian volcano)
64. Petty quarrels
65. Endor inhabitants
66. Food fragment
67. 'Susp' suffix
68. Wives of rajas

DOWN
1. Scratcher's woe
2. Ms. Fitzgerald
3. Ball of yarn
4. In layers
5. Pastimes
6. People immigrate to Canada because they what?: 4 wds.
7. Yore
8. Puckered clothing fabric
9. Pith helmet
10. Bryan Adams' duet partner on "It's Only Love": 2 wds.
11. Thingy
12. Actor Rob
14. Lingerie purchase
20. Ms. Del Rey
22. Poke around
25. Badger
26. Holy birthplace of Muhammad
27. Buddhist who has attained Nirvana
28. June 25th-28th, 2015: Tim Hortons Ottawa __ __ Festival
31. Prepare, as broccoli
32. New Wave duo, __ For Fears
35. Flora's friend?
36. RSVP-respondent, for example
38. Drive off bugs
43. Mr. Morales
46. Achieve
48. Lake Ontario city
50. Feminine 'this' in French
52. Alone
53. Wife: Latin
55. Sci-Fi beings
56. 'Konvicted' rapper
57. Ms. Taylor of modelling
58. 'Smart' suffix
61. Princess Leia portrayer ...her initials-sharers

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS by Sally Brompton

Aries March 21 - April 20
How you choose to react to challenging events will determine just how challenging they are. The most important thing today is that you keep your composure no matter how annoyed you may be. If you lose your temper you lose the battle too.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
You may not be the type to watch what you say but the planets warn this is not a good time to upset people for the sake of it. The closer you get to the weekend the more you need to watch your choice of words.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
Do you accept a small loss now or do you take a chance and risk a bigger loss later on? That decision must be made now, because if you don't decide then someone else will for you.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
No matter what happens today you must not let anything, or anyone, get to you. Not that anything drastic is likely to occur but if something upsets you then common sense could easily fly out the window.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
You seem so easily provoked of late. Why is that? Whatever the reason you must make a conscious effort to control your responses today, because if you go too far you will make enemies of people who should be friends.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
You may be tempted to act in ways that run contrary to your beliefs today, but whatever the material rewards they won't make up for the fact that you have strayed from your principles. Always be true to yourself.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Libra is a cardinal sign, which means you like to compete, and with Mars moving through the career area of your chart you are in no mood to take prisoners. But know your limits. Don't start fights you cannot possibly win.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Although you want to be on the move, some type of restrictions are likely to hold you back between now and the weekend. That's okay — if you start your journey too soon you may go in the wrong direction.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
You need to get serious about your money situation. You may be tempted to take a risk of some kind and bet against the odds but if you do you could end up even more out of pocket than you are now.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
You will have to get tough with someone who is getting emotional for no good reason. If you let them carry on they will not only make a fool of themselves but could annoy people in positions of power.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Don't let your pride get in the way of asking for advice or assistance today. No one expects you to be good at everything so there is no need to expect it of yourself. A little bit of honesty now could save a lot of embarrassment later on.

Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20
You would be wise not to take too much for granted today. If you push your luck you could find you have gone over the edge and there is no way back.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

			5	8	1			
7		5		6		3		2
6	3		7		2		8	5
1	5		4		6		2	9
9		7		4		6		8
			6	1	3			

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